

# Evidence of Engagement

## Letters of Support



## Open Libraries Highlights from Supporters

A project such as now envisioned by IA's *Open Libraries*, with its aim to enable free public access to millions of digital books that would serve research, art, culture, and education, would fall squarely within the constitutional objectives that motivated the founders to enable the creation of copyright.

**Thomas Jefferson would support this initiative, and Benjamin Franklin too.**

*Pamela Samuelson  
Richard M. Sherman Distinguished Professor of Law & Information  
Berkeley Law, University of California*

The Internet Archive's proposal to digitize four million books would constitute the greatest single increase in accessible materials for the blind since the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, which created what is now the NLS, in 1931. It would benefit millions of blind people, both in the United States and around the world.

*National Federation for the Blind*

The more books that can be brought online, the more we can meet the goal of democratized access to knowledge and culture for all individuals and all communities. As individual libraries transform individual communities and individual lives, **an online library containing much of the cultural heritage of the Twentieth Century can help transform the world.**

*American Library Association*

Annually, **millions of undergraduate and graduate students would benefit** from this dramatic investment, replacing costly college textbooks with Open Educational Resources, on average saving students an estimated \$1000 or more per year.

*Martha Kanter, Ed.D., Executive Director  
College Promise Campaign @CivicNation  
U.S. Under Secretary of Education (2009-2013)*

Of all the incredibly worthy proposals you are considering as part of the 100&Change program, only the Internet Archive's—because of its focus on broad and socially just access to information, which is the chief driver of human creativity, liberty, and potential worldwide—promises to solve multiple problems **and be generative of an endless number of solutions.**

*Digital Library Federation*

Given HMH's long history, we are acutely aware that there are books and other historic materials that are no longer available for readers who may want to access them. Furthermore, there are readers today who do not even know that this important legacy of American literary history exists. We do not want this legacy to get lost and we are committed to preserving and making it accessible to all... The Internet Archive's Open Libraries will make HMH's books accessible to everyone, regardless of a reader's location, physical ability, or economic status.

*Houghton Mifflin Harcourt*

This effort breathes new life into older books, benefitting authors as well as readers around the globe.

*Amy Brand, Director  
MIT Press*

**Many organizations set ambitious goals. The Archive fulfills them.** As a result, the Archive has become an invaluable resource for people all over the world.

*Electronic Frontier Foundation*



**Brewster and his team understand big visions** — something the MacArthur Foundation has demonstrated a remarkable ability to discover and support.

*Vint Cerf, VP and Chief Internet Evangelist  
Google*

**There is no organization on Earth more committed to creating, preserving and distributing our digital heritage.** I say this as a former top engineering executive at Google and Facebook, as a co-founder of One Laptop per Child and its first CTO, and as a lauded technology innovator. When I die my estate is going to the Internet Archive.

*Dr. Mary Lou Jepsen*

Keeping valuable knowledge and creativity out of the reach of readers benefits no one. **For authors, the lack of an online version of their books can be tantamount to oblivion.** For readers, it restricts the universe of available knowledge and culture.

*Authors Alliance*

The Internet Archive's proposal maps out extraordinarily well a mechanism and process for all libraries to participate in a network that will support a vastly increased common collection—literally increasing that collection by several orders of magnitude for the average library.

*Dan Cohen  
Northeastern University  
former Director, Digital Public Library of America*

The Internet Archive's program, funded by the MacArthur Challenge, could be that **new bold idea**, one with global reach in our ever more connected society, **one focused on ensuring no one is left behind** in the race for greater access to knowledge, information access and technological enablement.

*Boston Public Library*





The proposal's objectives of increasing digital access to critical learning and research missing from the online environment matches up with the mission of the Los Angeles Public Library to provide free and easy access to information to enrich, educate, and empower every individual in our city's diverse communities. ... The misperception that all information is available for free on the internet illustrates the need for libraries to develop partnerships to make available the breadth of human knowledge in a digital format.

*Los Angeles Public Library*

This **critical linchpin of democracy** is imperiled by a copyright regime that has yet to catch up with the realities of digital access. The Internet Archive is offering a secure, scalable solution to this challenge while the socio-political system normalizes the access our democracy demands.

*Abby Smith Rumsey*

Our mission of access to information will be significantly furthered by this model, allowing us to share our collections beyond regional boundaries more broadly than has ever been possible, while at the same time **giving our local communities greater access to desired knowledge** held far away.

*San Francisco Public Library*

Without access to the cultures, histories and knowledges that are embodied in books, it is difficult to create reliable public knowledge, on sites such as Wikipedia. And as the internet becomes the default library of the world, and Wikipedia its default encyclopaedia, **the reality is that if you're not online... you don't exist.**

*Whose Knowledge?  
a global, multi-lingual campaign to make knowledge on the internet  
more diverse and plural*



Hundreds of thousands of volunteer Wikipedia editors would be able to include citations from 4 million additional eBooks, with live links that take readers directly into the books themselves, grounding them in the published record. **This project will weave a rich and reliable explanation of our world** into Wikipedia and the web for generations to come.

*Wikimedia Foundation*

We want to ensure that everybody in the world with a qualifying disability will have access to both the Open Library and Bookshare collections for free, expanding access to books for education, employment and social inclusion. **In short, creating a global free library for people with disabilities!**

*Benetech*

ISKME sees the project as advancing an unprecedented opportunity to advance open and freely available curriculum around digitized book content, as a primary outcome of this supported access.

*The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education*

One of the true joys of life is that derived from reading books. It is always a cherished memory of childhood, a building block of one's growing years and a fundamental part of adult life.

**Unfortunately millions of persons with print disabilities around the world, more especially in developing countries around the APAC and other regions have severely limited access to books.**

The project proposed by The Internet Archive to digitize millions of books in accessible formats is immensely important and timely for us.

*Centre for Internet and Society*



Content will be simple to get. Books that will otherwise be lost will remain in the human record.

**Readers will benefit from access to free, valid and quality information, better able to explore, learn and develop intellectually and emotionally** in a time when funding cuts threaten our ability to fulfill our vital mission.

*Readers First  
a coalition of 300 library systems representing 200 million readers*

For the CNI community, we believe that this initiative would be very useful to print-disabled students who need access to a wide range of texts in their college or university program. Universities are under increasing pressure to provide accessible resources to their students and this large-scale program by IA would do much to assist their efforts.

*Coalition for Networked Information*

As Internet Archive makes these formats digital, new opportunities are created to deliver these into today's classrooms and enable **libraries to add their strengths** in addressing the needs of struggling readers.

*Learning Ally*

How can we leverage the extraordinary presence of almost 120,000 libraries in the United States to build literate and knowledgeable communities—the surest, and most cost-effective path to a self-sustaining society? Your very innovative approach, using existing technologies, and respecting author's rights, is **among the most promising directions I have seen.**

*James LaRue, Office for Intellectual Freedom  
American Library Association*

The proposed project to bring 4 million books online and ensure they are available to the print disabled around the world would make a major difference to many blind and visually-impaired people in their ability to access the world's knowledge. **Access to information helps provide personal independence, is necessary to succeed in education and employment and essential to participating in society.**

*LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired*

This project allows the sharing of collections and **creates a new model that recognizes the importance of both copyright and provenance.**

Just as importantly, this project has the potential to realize enormous cost savings to libraries, savings that can go into building collections instead of slowly and laboriously moving physical materials.

*Sacramento Public Library*

We place a high priority on offering a rich and relevant collection, but libraries are for people and should not be warehouses for books in the modern age. As a library with increasing demands on our spaces for community connections, group learning opportunities and more; Libraries should not be book warehouses, but community forums.

*Multnomah County Public Library (Portland, OR)*

**The project outlined by the IA in their *100&Change* proposal holds the promise of bridging one of the most dangerous divides of our time: an informational divide caused by the growing economic inequality in the United States.**

*Michelle Wu, Georgetown University Law Center*



## *Open Libraries* **Letters of Support**

<b>Pamela Samuelson</b>	14
<p>Samuelson is the Richard M. Sherman Distinguished Professor of Law at the University of California, Berkeley. She is an intellectual property scholar and co-director of the Berkeley Center for Law and Technology. She was a MacArthur Fellow in the class of 1997.</p>	
<b>American Library Association</b>	18
<p>The ALA is a member organization representing 58,000 member libraries of all types —academic, public, school, and special— in the U.S. and more than 100 other nations.</p>	
<b>Digital Library Federation</b>	20
<p>The Federation represents 162 research and memory institutions housing significant digital initiatives and works to advance research, learning, social justice, and the public good through the creative design and use of digital library technologies.</p>	
<b>National Federation of the Blind</b>	22
<p>NFB is the oldest and largest nationwide organization of blind people and a leading advocate for equal access to information by the blind.</p>	
<b>San Francisco Public Library</b>	23
<b>Coalition for Networked Information</b>	25
<p>CNI is a non-profit program of the Association of Research Libraries and EDUCAUSE. With more than 240 institutional members, EDUCAUSE is dedicated to supporting the transformative promise of digital information technology for the advancement of scholarly communication. .</p>	
<b>Houghton Mifflin Harcourt</b>	27
<b>Authors Alliance</b>	28
<p>The Authors Alliance represents more than 1,200 authors who want to take advantage of digital age opportunities to share their creations with readers, promote the ongoing progress of knowledge, and advance the public good.</p>	

<b>MIT Press</b>	30
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The Wikimedia Foundation is a non-profit that supports and operates Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata, and other free knowledge projects.	
<b>Public Library Association</b>	33
PLA works with 9000+ member libraries to enhance their abilities to provide an array of services to their communities.	
<b>Digital Public Library of America</b>	34
The DPLA is a network of 2,500 libraries, museums, and archives working to expand the breadth and depth of digitized materials.	
<b>Califa</b>	35
Califa is a non-profit library consortium representing 230 libraries in California. It is a recognized leader in e-content advocacy, access, and innovation.	
<b>ReadersFirst</b>	37
ReadersFirst is a open and cost-free organization dedicated to ensuring access to free and easy-to-use ebook content. They represent 300 library systems and 200 million readers across the globe.	
<b>American Library Association Office for Intellectual Freedom</b>	38
The Office of Intellectual Freedom implements ALA policies concerning the concept of intellectual freedom as codified in the Library Bill of Rights.	
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This library is led by the former director of the Digital Public Library of America.	
<b>Benetech</b>	41
Benetech's Bookshare online library is the largest library for people with disabilities such as blindness or dyslexia.	

<b>Center for Internet and Society</b>	42
<p>CIS is a non-profit organization that does policy and academic research on internet and digital technologies. Main areas of focus include digital access for persons with disabilities, access to knowledge, intellectual property rights, openness, and digital privacy.</p>	
<b>Learning Ally</b>	43
<p>Learning Ally is a national non-profit dedicated to helping students with print disabilities, including blindness, visual impairment, and dyslexia, learn at home and in the classroom.</p>	
<b>LightHouse for the Blind</b>	44
<p>The LightHouse promotes social equality and independence through providing training, education, advocacy, and community for blind individuals in California and around the world.</p>	
<b>Dr. Sam Pitroda</b>	45
<p>Pitroda has dedicated his life to broadening access to information and bridging the digital divide in developing countries, in particular in India. He is an advocate in particular for those with print disabilities, including India's 15 million blind.</p>	
<b>Whose Knowledge?</b>	46
<p>Whose Knowledge? is a global, multi-lingual campaign to make knowledge on the internet more diverse and plural.</p>	
<b>Martha Kanter</b>	48
<p>Kanter served as the U.S. Under Secretary of Education from 2009-2013 under President Obama and is a founder of the College Promise Campaign at Civic Nation.</p>	
<b>The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education</b>	50
<p>ISKME is an independent education non-profit whose mission is to improve the practice of continuous learning, collaboration, and change in the education sector.</p>	
<b>University of Alberta</b>	51

**New Knowledge Organization, Ltd.** 52

New Knowledge is an interdisciplinary social sciences think tank collaborating with changemakers to build a strong, healthy democracy and thriving biosphere. NKO will serve as an independent external evaluator to monitor the Open Libraries initiative.

**University of Washington Information School** 54

The ISchool is home to researchers who recognize that access to and effective use of information is key to building a better world. A partner to the Internet Archive, ISchool researchers design solutions to complex information challenges.

**Boston Public Library** 56**Los Angeles Public Library** 58**Sacramento Public Library** 60**Chicago Public Library** 62**New York Public Library** 63**Multnomah County Library (Portland, OR)** 64**Michelle M. Wu** 65

Wu is the Associate Dean for Library Services and Professor of Law at Georgetown Law where her research focuses on copyright, intellectual property licensing, and information management.

**Mary Lou Jepson** 67

Jepson has served as a top engineering executive at Google and Facebook. She is one of the co-founders of One Laptop per Child and its first CTO.



**Abby Smith Rumsey**

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Rumsey is a writer and historian focused on the creation, preservation, and use of the cultural record in all media. She has worked at the Library of Congress, the Council on Library and Information Resources, and the Scholarly Communication Institute at the University of Virginia.

**Electronic Frontier Foundation**

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EFF is a non-profit organization defending civil liberties in a digital world. Their work includes policy, litigation, grassroots activism, and technology development in pursuit of use privacy, free expression, and innovation.

**Vint Cerf**

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Cerf is a VP and the Chief Internet Evangelist at Google. Widely known as a “Father of the Internet,” Cerf co-designed the TCP/IP protocols and the architecture of the internet.

28 June 2017

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Attn: Board of Directors

**Re: 100&Change – letter of support for the Internet Archive**

To the MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

I am pleased to offer this letter to support the Internet Archive (IA) in the Foundation's 100&Change competition. IA's Open Libraries initiative to create a free, online collection of four million books presents an at-scale solution to a global problem, namely, that in this digital age we have not yet succeeded in bringing our vast resources of information online for broader public access. At present, only a small percentage of our accumulated heritage is available online than could be or should be. IA and Open Libraries, under the auspices of the 100&Change grant, would make major strides towards addressing this problem by providing far greater public access to the contents of books from library collections in digital form. Many, and perhaps most, of these books are currently underutilized because they exist only in analog form and can only be obtained by physical presence in library facilities. The framework established by Open Libraries will not only promote efficient growth and expansion of a major database containing much of the cultural heritage of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but will also serve affiliated libraries around the U.S. and be a model for other digital library initiatives. It will provide long-lasting and far-reaching public welfare benefits for generations to come.

As an intellectual property scholar, I have been greatly influenced by the aspiration the nation's founders built into the Constitution. The founders gave Congress the power "to promote the progress of science and useful arts" by granting exclusive rights for limited times to the original writings of authors. In Thomas Jefferson's day, these rights—collectively called copyright—lasted only fourteen years, and could be renewed for only fourteen additional years. If copyright had the same duration today as back then, all works of authorship created before 1990 would be in the public domain and freely available for reproduction and dissemination. Copyright lasts longer than that nowadays, and makes it more difficult for libraries to carry out their historically important mission to enable public access not only to public domain materials, but also to in-copyright works. A project such as now envisioned by IA's Open Libraries, with its aim to enable free public access to millions of digital books that would serve research, art, culture, and education, would fall squarely within the constitutional objectives that motivated the founders to enable the creation of copyright. Thomas Jefferson would support this initiative, and Benjamin Franklin too.



I've been working with Brewster Kahle and IA for more than a decade to provide support and guidance for the creative efforts IA has made to respect and work within the rules of copyright while at the same time providing as much access to creative works as fair use and other flexible doctrines of copyright permit. By partnering with other libraries and enabling them to lend digital copies of works in their physical collections, IA's mission "to provide Universal Access to All Knowledge" will be much furthered.

The Open Libraries Project reflects IA's ongoing commitment to ensuring better access to information for all. IA started with archiving the contents of open sites in today's digital networked environment. It went on to make available a wide range of additional information resources such as television news broadcasts and other video and audio recordings, still images, and software programs. This lofty undertaking expanded logically to digitizing books. As I wrote in 2011, "A digital library containing all the world's knowledge is a laudable goal; just ask Brewster Kahle, who established the Internet Archive in 1996, years before Google was founded, and who has worked tirelessly to create it as a non-profit true digital library."<sup>1</sup>

IA's efforts have intersected with my own academic and professional interests. Over the course of my thirty-plus-year-career as a scholar, educator, and advocate, especially at Berkeley Law where I teach courses in intellectual property law and serve as co-director of the Berkeley Center for Law & Technology, my research and writings have explored the boundaries of intellectual property law and the challenges posed by new information technologies.<sup>2</sup> Securing broad public access to our cultural heritage through mass digitization is a particularly compelling issue, one that I have focused on throughout the past decade.

My professional interest in mass digitization was first piqued by the Google Book Search project and then by the lawsuit that the Authors Guild brought against Google. When Google, the Guild, and the Association of American Publishers proposed a settlement that would have created a digital library of millions of books that would be publicly accessible, I was supportive of the overall goal, but not of the means the settling parties planned to use to achieve it. Contrary to Sergey Brin's claim, the Google Book settlement would not have created a library to last forever, but rather a shopping mall whose commercialization of books and destruction of reader privacy would have created a monster. IA and I objected to this settlement, in part because it would have allowed Google—and only Google—to commercialize all out-of-print books in the world. I filed objections to the settlement on behalf of academic authors because the Authors Guild did not adequately represent our interests in the negotiations. After that settlement failed, I supported Google's fair use defense by filing a brief *amicus curiae* with the courts to explain why Google's fair use defense should succeed, as it ultimately did.

Although I opposed the Google Books settlement, I have been working hard since then to figure out a way to achieve the laudable goal of the proposed settlement—to enable millions of books to be available online to as broad a public as possible—while respecting copyright and enabling nonprofit public libraries to provide greater public access to the accumulated knowledge of humankind. While technological and financial obstacles to creating a comprehensive digital library are not trivial, copyright may be the most confounding hurdle of all, due in part to the complex rights copyright law confers on owners and because copyright terms are so long. Thus the question remained: how to do it?

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<sup>1</sup> Pamela Samuelson, "Google Books Is Not a Library," *Huffington Post Blog*, Mar. 18, 2010 (updated May 25, 2011), [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pamela-samuelson/google-books-is-not-a-lib\\_b\\_317518.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/pamela-samuelson/google-books-is-not-a-lib_b_317518.html).

<sup>2</sup> My c.v. and list of published works are available on the Berkeley Law website: <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/our-faculty/faculty-profiles/pamela-samuelson/>.

To that end, my work has addressed copyright challenges for digital libraries and mass digitization projects. I have written, for instance, about fair use as an enabler of broad public access to orphan works, digital lending, and greater access for print-disabled persons. My commitment to fostering greater public access to knowledge motivated me to serve, from 2011 to 2014, as a principal investigator of the Berkeley Digital Library Copyright Project, which was funded by a Sloan Foundation grant. This three-year project focused on how to overcome the copyright obstacles faced by libraries in the digital age.<sup>3</sup> Over the course of the Project, we explored the issues and concerns of library communities and other stakeholders about copyright issues, working with librarians at the University of California, University of Michigan, Harvard University, among others, as well as with library associations in the U.S. and beyond in our research initiatives. We also hosted academic symposia and workshops. Brewster Kahle, IA's Founder, was on the Project's advisory board and participated in several Project events. Our outputs included a series of reports, articles, white papers, and written comments to the U.S. Copyright Office and others, communicating views about how copyright obstacles might be overcome and how coalitions of support for the initiatives to overcome the obstacles might be built. The Project also supported several workshops and conferences to bring together the best minds in the U.S. to address copyright issues posed by mass digitization.

One of the objectives of the Digital Library Copyright Project was to facilitate actual, real-world applications. As an advisor to IA's Open Libraries project, I and other intellectual property law scholars, practicing attorneys, and university research and public library professionals have discussed practical strategies for architecting a large-scale digital library system such as that envisioned by IA. There are a series of measures that IA can take to creatively increase public access without breaking copyright rules. This project will be especially useful to promote public access to older works that are no longer commercially available, and to provide access to underserved communities such as blind and print-disabled users, all while observing traditional library principles such as safeguarding reader privacy. As a nonprofit organization, IA could operate with greater transparency and promote the public interest better than commercial platforms such as Google, Amazon, or Facebook could in running a digital book marketplace.

In addition, as a co-founder of Authors Alliance, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting authorship for the public good by supporting authors who write to be read, to be seen, and to be heard, I have a direct interest in broadening public access to my own work and the works of our 1200 members. The Alliance's mission is to further the public interest in facilitating widespread access to works of authorship.<sup>4</sup> The organization has developed a guide to rights reversions for authors who want to reclaim copyrights in their works. We plan to work with IA to help it spread the word about the advantages of rights reversions as a tool to enable broader public access to older but still culturally valuable works. We are working on resources and tools designed to help authors better understand and manage key legal, technological, and institutional aspects of authorship in the digital age.

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<sup>3</sup> The Project is digitally archived on the Berkeley Law website:  
<https://www.law.berkeley.edu/experiential/clinics/samuels-law-technology-public-policy-clinic/digital-library-copyright-project/> (research and project outputs can be accessed by clicking on the link in the menu bar on the right side of the page).

<sup>4</sup> More information from and about Authors Alliance can be found on its website:  
<http://www.authorsalliance.org/>.



I hope this letter has conveyed the steady development of interest and support for projects such as IA's Open Libraries. Throughout the United States and abroad there are authors, scholars, educators, students, readers and other individuals, libraries and other institutions, all who share with IA a unified vision of a modern library system providing broad public access to knowledge. The 100&Change grant can make possible a marshalling of such communal commitment that just a few years ago might have seemed impossible. The more books that can be brought online, the closer the goal of democratized access to knowledge and culture for all communities can be attained.

We are at a historic moment: Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive are attempting to do something profoundly important. Let us all work together to move this worthy project further forward and help this and coming generations connect to the world's knowledge.

Thank you for your time and attention. I am happy to provide further information if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pamela Samuelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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# ALA American Library Association

July 11, 2017

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60603  
Attn: Board of Directors

To the MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

On behalf of the American Library Association, I am pleased to offer this letter of support for the Internet Archive's 100&Change Open Libraries proposal to the MacArthur Foundation to create a free, online collection of four million books.

Despite technological advances in information delivery, the vast majority of digital resources are not currently available to the public in this country and across the world. This is particularly true of printed book materials, the majority of which are housed in libraries where these materials are only available to those who can physically access them. This lack of access negatively impacts research, education and economic development both here in the US and abroad.

The Internet Archive and Open Libraries project would address this problem by providing digital access to the contents of books from library collections. The more books that can be brought online, the more we can meet the goal of democratized access to knowledge and culture for all individuals and all communities. As individual libraries transform individual communities and individual lives, an online library containing much of the cultural heritage of the Twentieth Century can help transform the world.

The 58,000 members of the American Library Association represent tens of thousands of libraries of all types – academic, public, school and special – here in the United States and in over 100 countries around the world. Working together over the last 140 years, ALA has led the way in providing “leadership for the development, promotion, and improvement of library and information services... in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.”

This work has included the introduction of many advances in library and information services over the years, and has increasingly focused on increasing access to information and learning through use of digital technologies. With the advent of the Internet, we have led efforts to make print materials available online. This has included working with publishers to increase public access to published books.

On a personal note, I have focused throughout my forty-two years of professional work on expanding the accessibility and usability of information through technology. This has included numerous initiatives in mass digitization, delivering and preserving critical resources for a global audience. The Internet Archive,

throughout its distinguished history, has always been a leader in this arena, setting the standards for access to digitized materials and to born digital resources.

Thank you for your time and attention. I would be happy to provide further information if necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "James G. Neal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "N".

James G. Neal  
President  
American Library Association



COUNCIL ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION RESOURCES  
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Telephone: 202.939.4750 • CLIR: [www.clir.org](http://www.clir.org) • DLF: [www.diglib.org](http://www.diglib.org)  
— The Digital Library Federation is a program of CLIR —

29 June 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

*Re: Internet Archive Proposal, 100&Change*

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I write on behalf of the **Digital Library Federation (DLF)** to express our professional community's enthusiastic support for the Internet Archive's *Open Libraries 100&Change* proposal—but more than that, to offer the complete commitment of DLF's leadership and active working groups to helping the project succeed, through an innovative partnership we're calling "Inclusive Curation."

The Digital Library Federation was founded in 1995 and currently represents 162 institutions—colleges and universities housing research libraries and significant digital initiatives; public libraries, museums, and other cultural heritage organizations using technology to reach new audiences; and government agencies, archives, research labs, and nonprofits with holdings to share and ambitious information access goals. DLF member organizations and the engaged faculty, staff, and students within them come together with a broad, international digital library practitioner community extending well beyond our institutional membership to develop new systems and best practices in support of a common DLF mission. Together, we *advance research, learning, social justice, and the public good through the creative design and wise application of digital library technologies.*

We do this because digital libraries are the essential intellectual infrastructure of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

And, just like the brick-and-mortar libraries whose collections feed them, digital libraries are only as rich, expansive, and generative as the content they house. The Internet Archive's proposal to remediate four million minimally-accessible print-bound volumes into digital form, freely placing them in the hands of readers, teachers, seekers, and learners, will not only help realize the potential of libraries to transfer knowledge across generations and to audiences barely anticipated at the moment of a book's production—it will open up a world of learning to members of communities who have been unjustly shut out of information access, because of quirks of geography, economic and social inequities, or physical/cognitive disability, including those for whom print will never be an accessible medium. What will these individuals and



communities do with greater access to information? What discoveries and breakthroughs will they achieve? What new art and literature will they be inspired to create? What changes will they make in the world? We're excited to find out.

But this project is not just an opportunity to make 4 million books widely accessible in new forms. It is also a chance to be radically more thoughtful about matters of diversity, equity, and inclusion in the digital collections we create—an issue that has never been more pressing on the American scene and which we see as fundamental to MacArthur's global vision to create a more just, verdant, and peaceful world. DLF's contribution to the *Open Libraries* project will be to design model digitization selection processes and workflows in alignment with our deep commitment to social justice and the common good, developing shared practices and understandings that will serve diverse information communities better, now and into the future. We are eager to integrate an IA/100&Change "Inclusive Curation" platform and toolkit into the dashboard of related digital library design and assessment tools our DLF working groups are currently developing to make freely available to the worldwide digital library community.

"Inclusive Curation" will be guided by our energetic DLF Cultural Assessment working group, chaired by Hannah Scates Kettler, who joins me on the advisory board for IA's proposal. It will serve to coordinate the efforts of various Internet Archive curatorial partners, helping to make their book selection decisions transparent and open to a user-friendly mechanism for public feedback on matters of diversity and representation. DLF's goal is to establish and promote a welcoming, community-responsive form of book selection for the Internet Archive project that ultimately results in fewer homogenous collections—and in digital libraries that better represent and share the lived experiences of readers and writers with differing cultures, lifestyles, orientations, interests, and local or indigenous knowledge. Because of the prominence and reach of our two organizations in the global digital library community, DLF and IA are confident our toolkits, resources, and collaboration on "Inclusive Curation" within *Open Libraries* can serve as a model for the creation of more diverse and democratized digital collections everywhere.

Of all the incredibly worthy proposals you are considering as part of the 100&Change program, only the Internet Archive's—because of its focus on broad and socially just access to information, which is the chief driver of human creativity, liberty, and potential worldwide—promises to solve *multiple problems* and be generative of *an endless number of solutions*.

The Digital Library Federation is proud to support this project, and I urge you to do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bethany Nowviskie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bethany" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Nowviskie".

Bethany Nowviskie, MA Ed., Ph.D.  
Executive Director of the Digital Library Federation,  
Council on Library and Information Resources;  
and Research Associate Professor of Digital Humanities, University of Virginia



July 7, 2017

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603-5285

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

The National Federation of the Blind urges The MacArthur Foundation to award the 100&Change grant to the Internet Archive in order to provide libraries and learners free digital access to over four million books. The National Federation of the Blind is the oldest and largest nationwide organization of blind people and the leading advocate for equal access to information by the blind. Every day we raise the expectations of blind people, because low expectations create obstacles between blind people and our dreams.

Despite the technological feasibility of converting print books into accessible formats like Braille, audio, and digital copies, which is easier to do now than it has ever been, over 95 percent of published works are unavailable to people with print disabilities. Even though the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped of the Library of Congress (NLS) makes accessible books available to blind people on a national scale and some electronic booksellers, like Apple and Amazon, are producing accessible ebooks, too many publishers remain technically unable or simply unwilling to make their materials accessible.

Literacy and knowledge are critical to equal participation in society and to a productive and fulfilling life. The scarcity of accessible books means that print-disabled people have been unable to learn, work, and enjoy life to as great an extent as their non-disabled counterparts. They may be unable to complete research for school, progress in their career, or fully participate in cultural life.

For these reasons, the National Federation of the Blind urges The MacArthur Foundation to award this grant to the Internet Archive. The Internet Archive's proposal to digitize four million books would constitute the greatest single increase in accessible materials for the blind since the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Act, which created what is now the NLS, in 1931. It would benefit millions of blind people, both in the United States and around the world.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Riccobono, President  
National Federation of the Blind



*San Francisco Public Library*

City Librarian's Office

100 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA Phone: (415) 557-4236

June 27, 2017

Board of Directors

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

140 S. Dearborn Street

Chicago, IL 60603

SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing to express San Francisco Public Library's strong endorsement of the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project, and to convey our intent to support, advise and fully participate in this initiative. Our mission of access to information will be significantly furthered by this model, allowing us to share our collections beyond regional boundaries more broadly than has ever been possible, while at the same time giving our local communities greater access to desired knowledge held far away. Equity is one of our primary values and this project addresses critical issues of access for people who do not share the benefits of a well-funded urban library system such as ours.

San Francisco Public Library was one of 100 partners that participated in the Internet Archive's Open Libraries prototype and for us, this project represents a logical and dramatic scaling of that work.

Collections we particularly want to share include:

- Extensive San Francisco, Bay Area, California and the West collections: Our Daniel E. Koshland San Francisco History Center is the official archive of the City and County of San Francisco and documents all aspects of San Francisco life and history and to a lesser extent, the San Francisco Bay Area, California and the West, from its earliest days to the present. These collections cover important subject areas for the K-12 state curriculum, such as books about the California Missions. SFPL holdings also include City and County of San Francisco government document monographs that have yet to be digitized.
- Effie Lee Morris Historic and Research Collection of Children's Literature: This collection of over 15,000 books emphasizes outdated or out-of-print books considered important to children's literature and books containing ethnic stereotypes. It includes the Changing Portrayals Collection of Ethnic and Social Groups with an Emphasis on Pacific Rim Peoples as well as complete collections of Newbery and Caldecott Award winners.

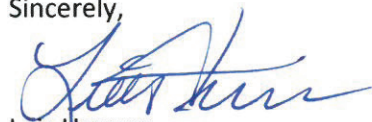


- American and European history: An extensive collection on American and European history with books published starting in 1900. The European history collection focuses on World War II, current conflicts and social conditions affected by historical movements.
- Literature: A broad collection that is international in scope, including an in-depth poetry collection that serves our local poetry community. The collection includes translations of plays, speeches, drama, essays and humor from all over the world and includes books from 1900 to current. One likely candidate for digitization would be the J. Francis McComas science fiction collection which contains more than 3,000 books and series dating from the 1920s to the 1970s.
- International language collections, especially strong in Chinese and Russian language materials.
- Books – many rare - from our James Hormel LGBTQIA collections: This resource collection is national and international in scope with a primary focus on Northern California. It pays particular attention to the experience of people of color, the disabled, youth, the elderly, and other groups which are often marginalized within this community. As we know from the requests that we receive, there is voracious interest in these collections in locations far and wide.

We are keenly excited about the potential of this project to make new strides in the inter-library loan conundrum, by creating instantaneous interlibrary loan access respectful of copyright. This would allow us to share our collections and participate in an ILL model that would be nothing short of revolutionary in its ability to meet the information needs of our communities and other communities. It also has the potential to realize enormous cost savings to libraries, savings that can go into building collections instead of slowly and laboriously moving physical materials. It will help libraries with their ongoing on-site space management needs, another way that that costs can be contained and services expanded at the same time.

As a major urban library with extensive research collections that serve both San Franciscans and many residents of surrounding counties, we look forward to collaborating closely with the leadership of the Internet Archive and its many partners who have also agreed to share collections, resources and expertise in this unique and exciting venture.

Sincerely,



Luis Herrera  
City Librarian

June 28, 2017

MacArthur Foundation Board  
**Via E-mail**

Dear Members of the MacArthur Foundation Board:

We are writing to support the Internet Archive's application to be considered for the MacArthur's 100&Change. Our organization, the Coalition for Networked Information (CNI), has had a close relationship with the Internet Archive since its inception, and we have given our highest award to Brewster Kahle, the IA's founder. CNI (see [www.cni.org](http://www.cni.org)) is a non-profit program of the Association of Research Libraries and EDUCAUSE, a higher education information technology association, which promotes the transformative promise of networked information technology for the advancement of scholarly communication and the enrichment of intellectual productivity. Our members, which include most major US higher education institutions, libraries such as the Library of Congress and National Library of Medicine, publishers and scholarly societies, foundations such as the Andrew W. Mellon foundation, and technology service providers, have been at the forefront of developing, disseminating, and preserving digital content for the research and education community.

In its application for the MacArthur 100&Change competition, the Internet Archive highlights some of the significant roadblocks to broad access to published content in the digital environment, particularly copyright restrictions and accessibility. Many individuals assume that libraries can scan any book they please and make it available in digital form; they are unaware of the copyright restrictions that make that difficult if not impossible for most uses. However, there are exceptions to copyright for materials that will be used by the blind and handicapped, and this is where the Internet Archive, with its deep expertise in large-scale digitization, could make a great difference. Importantly, these digital books would be globally available under conditions that comply with US law, and the IA will also safeguard the privacy of its users. For the CNI community, we believe that this initiative would be very useful to print-disabled students who need access to a wide range of texts in their college or university program. Universities are under increasing pressure to provide accessible resources to their students, and this large-scale program by IA would do much to assist their efforts. The IA's goal to provide more equitable public access to knowledge is consistent with the goals of our own organization. An additional benefit of this project would be the large corpus of digital texts created, which IA could make available for scholars studying big data or using techniques such as text mining to study linguistic or historical trends. This project will have a long-lasting payoff for education around the globe. We strongly support the Internet Archive's application for this award.



Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive have already changed the world for good by ensuring that our society has access to the history of the WorldWide Web. Many said this could not be done, and they have done it. With the MacArthur Foundation's support, they can seize the chance to change the world again, and to set right some shameful failures to take advantage of the opportunities of the digital age.

We of course would be delighted to provide any further information or clarifications

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cliff A Lynch". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clifford A Lynch, Ph.D.  
Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information

And

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joan K. Lippincott". The signature is cursive and elegant, with a prominent initial "J".

Joan Lippincott, Ph.D.  
Associate Executive Director, Coalition for Networked Information





July 13, 2017

To the MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt supports the Internet Archive's application for the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change grant.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt is a global learning company dedicated to changing people's lives by fostering passionate, curious learners. Since 1832 we have been bringing to bookshelves works by some of the world's greatest authors and most iconic literary characters, such as Nathaniel Hawthorne, Willa Cather, Virginia Woolf, Curious George, Mike Mulligan and his Steam Shovel, and Alice Walker. We have been serving the K-12 market with outstanding products since the founding of our education department in 1882; today, we service over 150 million students and 3 million educators globally.

Given HMH's long history, we are acutely aware that there are books and other historic materials that are no longer available for readers who may want to access them. Furthermore, there are readers today who do not even know that this important legacy of American literary history exists. We do not want this legacy to get lost, and we are committed to preserving and making it accessible to all.

The Internet Archive's *Open Libraries* will make HMH's books accessible to *everyone*, regardless of a reader's location, physical ability, or economic status. We are eager to work with the Internet Archive to make our archive of published works available through *Open Libraries*. One of our legacy founding companies, The Riverside Press, was at the forefront of printing technology from its founding in 1852. We are thrilled to ally ourselves with a project that will make our 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century history available through 21<sup>st</sup> century technology. This project aligns perfectly with our mission to improve educational outcomes in underserved communities, foster curiosity, and provide materials easily and at no cost to learners of all ages. We wholeheartedly support it.

Sincerely,

  
John J. Lynch, Jr.  
President & CEO  
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt



AUTHORS  
ALLIANCE

authorsalliance.org  
510.480.8302

2705 Webster St. #5805  
Berkeley, CA 94705

June 30, 2017

**Re: 100&Change Semi-Finalist Support - Internet Archive's Open Libraries**

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

We write on behalf of Authors Alliance to express our support for the Internet Archive's Open Libraries proposal for the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change grant. Authors Alliance is a nonprofit organization representing the interests of authors who want to take advantage of opportunities of the digital age to share their creations with readers, promote the ongoing progress of knowledge, and advance the public good. Our more than 1,200 members—including academics, novelists, nonfiction authors, and librarians—share the goal of making works of authorship broadly available in order to keep books in the hands of readers.

The Internet has made information and creative works available on an unprecedented scale, but its potential in this regard is still largely unrealized. Authors face a host of technical, legal, and financial barriers that prevent them from sharing their works that are out of print, un-digitized, and/or subject to copyrights signed away long before the digital age. Their books are effectively locked away, creating a gap in the public availability of important works. Keeping valuable knowledge and creativity out of the reach of readers benefits no one. For authors, the lack of an online version of their books can be tantamount to oblivion. For readers, it restricts the universe of available knowledge and culture.

We at Authors Alliance have firsthand knowledge of this problem. Many of our members want to give a second life to their books that have fallen out of print, but they signed over the copyrights in their works to publishers years ago. Fortunately, the educational materials we have developed on rights reversion have helped our members work with their publishers to regain rights to their out-of-print books and make them newly available in the ways that they want. Our partnership with the Internet Archive, and in particular its assistance with scanning reverted books, has allowed some of our members to make their works newly available to the public, for the first time in decades, on our Internet Archive collection page—and that's just a tiny fraction of what Open Libraries could accomplish at scale.

Our successful partnership is just one of many reasons why we wholeheartedly endorse the Internet Archive's vision for Open Libraries and its ambitious goal to digitize 4 million books and put them in the hands of readers. But reviving out-of-print works is not the only way authors hope that digitization will ensure that their works reach readers. For many readers around the world, digitized books are not merely a more convenient means to access works—they may be the only way to do so. Even if a book happens to be available in a local library, there are many readers who are nonetheless unable to access it due to infirmity or a print disability. Moreover, readers in the developing world are hungry for knowledge, but their access to it is often severely

limited. Online books may well be their only route to an education and its lifelong benefits. Many authors care deeply about making sure their works are available to these readers and worry that gaps in digital availability prevent these readers from accessing their books.

Digital libraries also create new opportunities for authors from under-represented communities to reach readers. Communities of color, the disabled, students, seniors, the incarcerated, LGBTQI people, and religious minorities are just some of the voices that have historically been at the margins of mainstream publishing. By working with partner organizations to proactively identify and include works that may be largely unavailable via traditional channels, Open Libraries will dramatically increase the diversity of knowledge available online and put it in the hands of readers and scholars who would otherwise have limited or no access to these works.

The Open Libraries project will not only make the pool of available knowledge and creativity broader and deeper, but it will also make it accessible to the print disabled, the elderly, and those in under-served communities around the world on an unprecedented scale. In doing so, we believe that the project is an ambitious vision honoring the spirit of 100&Change and also an undertaking that benefits authors—such as our members—whose goal is to share their works as widely as possible. We support the Internet Archive in this ambitious vision, and urge you to consider the Open Libraries proposal as a worthy recipient of the 100&Change award from the MacArthur Foundation.

Sincerely,



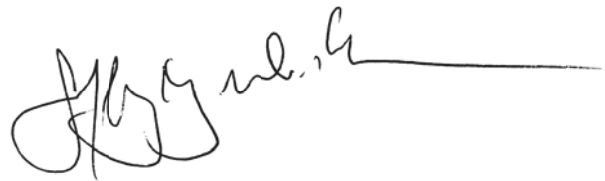
Brianna Schofield  
*Executive Director, Authors Alliance*




Pamela Samuelson  
*President, Authors Alliance*



Carla Hesse  
*Board of Directors, Authors Alliance*



Jeffrey MacKie-Mason  
*Board of Directors, Authors Alliance*



Thomas Leonard  
*Board of Directors, Authors Alliance*



Molly Shaffer Van Houweling  
*Board of Directors, Authors Alliance*

June 30, 2017

To: MacArthur Foundation Board Members

I'm Amy Brand, Director of the MIT Press. Known for digital innovation and excellence in content and design, the MIT Press advances knowledge by publishing significant works from leading thinkers around the globe for the broadest possible access, impact, and audience.

I'm extremely delighted to be partnering with the Internet Archive in its ambitious and important digitization efforts, and I fully endorse IA's application to the exciting 100&Change opportunity. We've already committed to digitize hundreds of backlist MIT Press books where we have the relevant rights, and to enable open access where legal and practical as well. At a minimum, the digitized books will be available for free one-at-a-time lending through [openlibrary.org](http://openlibrary.org) and through libraries that participate in the proposed OpenLibraries project, which is intended to enable libraries that own the physical books to lend digital copies to their patrons. This effort breathes new life into older books, benefitting authors as well as readers around the globe.

When I started as Director of the MIT Press a couple of years ago, one of my top ambitions was to make sure that everything we've published and have the rights to digitize be made accessible, searchable, discoverable, mineable, now and in perpetuity. When I connected with Brewster Kahle at the Internet Archive, we realized that partnering to achieve this made great sense for both parties. IA is looking to bring as many print-only books online as possible, and working directly with publishers is a key part of his strategy. For the MIT Press, the relationship means we also get back digital files for our own use. In addition to making older works newly available and significantly growing our open access program, I see this effort as a proactive alternative to widespread circulation of unauthorized digital files for these works.

In short, this is an incredibly important effort of vast proportions and world-changing potential, and I urge the Board to fund the Internet Archive's application.

Sincerely,



Amy Brand, PhD  
Director, The MIT Press





July 10, 2017

To: MacArthur Foundation Board of Directors

Via The Internet Archive

Re: Internet Archive's OpenLibraries Initiative for 100&Change

Dear Board of the MacArthur Foundation,

The Internet Archive is a trusted partner of the Wikimedia Foundation in our shared objective of helping to make the global web, and vast collections of human knowledge, more reliable and accessible. The Wikimedia Foundation is the non-profit organization that supports and operates Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons, Wikidata, and other free knowledge projects. The Wikimedia sites are viewed more than 15 billion times every month by people from every corner of the globe. All of our work is guided by our mission to enable every person on the planet to share in the sum of all knowledge. As such, we welcome and appreciate the opportunity to support the Internet Archive's OpenLibraries Initiative as part of the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition.

At Wikimedia, we know that knowledge is constantly in flux. Our understanding of the world changes as new information becomes available, giving us new opportunities to build on what we once knew to be true. Services that the Internet Archive offer are critical to supporting this system -- tying us to published records and source material so that we may continue to learn, understand, and build for the future.

One issue that Wikimedia and the Internet Archive can solve together is the critical issue of "link rot". Link rot is what happens as material on the web disappears, and its associated links -- often critical citations -- are broken forever. For the past several years the Wikimedia Foundation, and volunteers from the Wikipedia community, have partnered with the Internet Archive to make near real-time backups of web-based resources which Wikipedia editors reference in their articles. This helps make Wikipedia more reliable and useful after web links used in Wikipedia articles have changed, moved, or otherwise become inaccessible in their original form. More than two million of those "broken links" on English Wikipedia have been repaired thanks to archived copies on the Wayback Machine.

The trust users have in the credibility of Wikipedia articles, built up by volunteers over more than 15 years, is key to its success -- and the reason why users read around 15 billion pages every month. A key element of trust is the requirement that information is backed up with published sources, referenced on Wikipedia. Even as information is digitized to the web, books remain a critical source of our shared knowledge - and a foundation for Wikipedia articles.

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.



Substantial support from the MacArthur Foundation to help advance the Internet Archive's effort to accelerate and expand their book digitization, transformation, and dissemination efforts would be a gift not only to knowledge and open culture organizations, but to humanity at large. Hundreds of thousands of volunteer Wikipedia editors would be able to include citations from 4 million additional eBooks, with live links that take readers directly into the books themselves, grounding them in the published record. This project will weave a rich and reliable explanation of our world into Wikipedia and the web for generations to come.

We applaud what the Internet Archive has accomplished, we rely on and appreciate our ongoing work together, and we look forward to collaborating with them in the years ahead.

Good luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katherine Maher', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Katherine Maher

Executive Director, Wikimedia Foundation

Imagine a world in which every single human being can freely share in the sum of all knowledge.

wikimediafoundation.org · 149 New Montgomery St, 6th Floor, San Francisco CA 94105 · 1-415-839-6885 · 1-415-882-0495 fax



July 7, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

On behalf of the Public Library Association (PLA) Board of Directors, I am writing to express support of the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project, and to share our intent to advise and disseminate information to the public library field about the project. PLA works in partnership with public libraries to enhance their abilities to provide an array of services to their communities. The proposed project is in strong alignment with our goals as it seeks to help librarians become digital leaders, sharing their collections both locally and well beyond traditional boundaries and at the same time, increasing their own community's access to even richer collections.

The Public Library Association exists to strengthen public libraries and their contribution to the communities they serve. PLA provides a diverse program of communication, publication, advocacy, continuing education, and programming for its 9,000+ members and others interested in the advancement of public library service. PLA is eager to team with Internet Archive on this project as the resources to be developed support the goals of our strategic plan, helping libraries transform and supporting literacy and the information needs of our communities.

Public libraries have vital roles to play in ensuring our communities have the access to information they need for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. PLA is delighted to collaborate with the Internet Archive on this important work. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Pam Sandlian Smith  
PLA President 2017-2018  
Director, Anythink Libraries  
Thornton, Colorado





DIGITAL PUBLIC LIBRARY  
OF AMERICA

June 30, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

DPLA (Digital Public Library of America) is a strong supporter and partner with Internet Archive, as we share a common mission, providing free and open access to digital materials. In particular, we look forward to be a strategic curation partner with Internet Archive if their proposal for digitizing and providing access to four million books is funded.

We are acutely aware at DPLA there is a large inequities in the distribution and access of digitized books, and the project, as proposed by Internet Archive, can significantly reduce the gap and digital divide that exists between those that have access to published curated content and those that do not.

As a partner DPLA brings a rich network of 2,500 libraries, museums and archives that are passionate about expanding the breadth and depth of digitized materials to their patrons, and would welcome the opportunity to participate in a national initiative focused on expanding access to a broader audience of patrons.

We look forward in working with Internet Archive to enable access to an additional four million digital books, many unavailable anywhere in digital form, and partnering with libraries providing free open access to knowledge.

Sincerely,

Michele Kimpton  
Acting Executive Director  
DPLA



July 6, 2017

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603-5285  
Attn: Board of Directors

RE: 100&Change – letter of support for Internet Archive

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

The **Califa Group** strongly supports the **Internet Archive's Open Libraries** project, a finalist in the **MacArthur Foundation 100 & Change** grant competition.

The **Califa Group** is a non-profit library consortium representing 230 libraries in California and is a recognized leader in e-content advocacy, access and innovation. All public libraries in California are Califa members, benefiting from the resource sharing, procurement, grant projects, continuing education and e-content services we provide. And all of these libraries and their 23 million California cardholders will benefit from digital access to 4 million books!

Specifically, the Internet Archive Open Libraries project is good for libraries and good for the public we serve because it will:

- provide individuals with access to materials that would otherwise be inaccessible because of local availability, cost to purchase, or vision impairment;
- provide libraries the ability to loan a digital OR a print version of a book without having to purchase a single title in multiple formats; making it possible for library budgets to purchase more new titles rather than digital copies of the same titles they already have;
- provide libraries the ability to offer more materials without the need for physical space to store them;



- provide the world with access to rare and out-of-print and local and international language materials where no digital version exists.

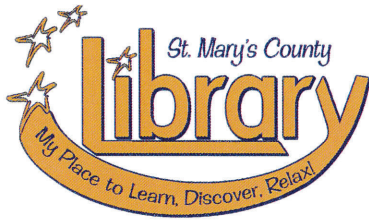
Throughout the history of the United States, and even long prior to 1776, American libraries have served as stewards of the public good, providing the public with access to a wealth of resources well beyond what any one person would otherwise be able to access, and preserving our cultural heritage by protecting the records of our history. Current digital licensing models threaten the expansion of knowledge for the public good and undermine the public's rights under the law to use copyright protected works. The Internet Archive's Open Libraries project aims to surge forward the ability for libraries to continue this important public service.

On behalf of the Califa Group, I encourage the MacArthur Foundation to fund the Internet Archive's proposal. We are eager to see this explosion of access to digitized materials which will benefit readers and learners and knowledge explorers everywhere. And forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Paula MacKinnon".

Paula MacKinnon  
Director, Califa Group



June 28, 2017

To: The MacArthur Foundation Board of Directors

Subject: The Internet Archive's Grant Application for 100&Change

Dear Directors,

I am writing to support the Internet Archive's application for the 100&Change Grant. Their Open Libraries initiative is a bold proposal that would increase access to and preservation of important information, solving problems with which libraries struggle in our efforts to share and maintain access to our intellectual heritage.

I write on behalf not only of my own library but also of ReadersFirst. We are an open and cost-free organization of some three hundred library systems representing 200 million readers across the globe. We are dedicated to ensuring access to free and easy-to-use eBook content. To learn more about us, please visit <http://www.readersfirst.org/>.

Open Libraries, if funded, would allow libraries to overcome many obstacles they face in sharing their collections digitally. The cost of digitizing, restrictions on the use of eBooks through licensing and other legal issues, and lack of interoperability of different library systems all stymie access to readers and threaten the very survival of millions of works published since 1923. By digitizing millions of works in a content exchange operating across many platforms, thus realizing the promise of technology to improve the eBook experience, the project will allow libraries to share content while respecting the rights of authors and publishers, mirroring borrowing of physical items. Content will be simple to get. Books that will otherwise be lost will remain in the human record. Readers will benefit from access to free, valid, and quality information, better able to explore, learn, and develop intellectually and emotionally. In a time when funding cuts threaten our ability to fulfil our vital mission and when access to information is becoming increasingly commercialized and unavailable to many who most need it, this project will assist libraries in extending their reach and fulfilling their vital mission as an essential and necessary element of the democratic experiment. Libraries will extend this initiative's reach to millions upon millions of readers. The project is meaningful, verifiable implementation, durable in impact, and eminently feasible. Please give it favorable consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Blackwell  
Director, St Mary's County Library; ReadersFirst Communication and Advocacy Project Leader  
23250 Hollywood Rd  
Leonardtown, MD 20650  
614-707-3865  
[mblackwell@stmalib.org](mailto:mblackwell@stmalib.org)

# ALA American Library Association

## Office for Intellectual Freedom

June 9, 2017

MacArthur Foundation Board  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board,

I am writing in support of the Internet Archive's proposal to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. As a father, I know the vital importance of libraries in the promotion of literacy – a skill that has profound, positive and lifelong effects on childhood health, longevity, the likelihood of avoiding incarceration, educational attainment, and income. As a longtime public library director involved in the promotion of ebooks, I understand the urgency of bridging the digital divide, and getting to people the content not currently available to them. As the director of the American Library Association's Office for Intellectual Freedom, I have learned that shared, open, digital platforms may provide the best single strategy to get the emerging voices of literature – diverse authors now shut out of traditional distribution systems of content – to the eager and increasingly diverse communities libraries serve.

Over the years, the Internet Archive has demonstrated that it is not only capable of dreaming big, but also of delivering big. The Internet Archive's proposal addresses an almost existential problem: how can libraries remain players in an increasingly digital age? How can we connect emerging content to emerging library users? How can we leverage the extraordinary presence of almost 120,000 libraries in the United States to build literate and knowledgeable communities – the surest, and most cost-effective path to a self-sustaining society? The Internet Archive's very innovative approach, using existing technologies, and respecting author's rights, is among the most promising directions I have seen. It solves an important problem and holds great promise for all the people libraries serve.

The Office for Intellectual Freedom strongly endorses the Internet Archive's proposal, and wishes them good fortune.

Sincerely,



James LaRue, Director  
Office for Intellectual Freedom &  
Freedom to Read Foundation



# Northeastern University

## University Libraries

June 30, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

*Re: Internet Archive Proposal, 100&Change*

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing with my strong support for the Internet Archive's exciting and transformative proposal to the 100&Change grant program. As the current Dean of the Libraries at Northeastern University, and having led a national nonprofit to provide access to ebooks and other digital library materials, the Digital Public Library of America, I believe that I am in a very good position to evaluate the substantive impact of the Internet Archive's planned work and its important connections to libraries across the country and the world.

The Internet Archive is entirely correct that the state of access to ebooks in the United States and elsewhere is surprisingly and distressingly poor. As I learned at DPLA, among the nearly 17,000 branch libraries in the United States, most of them have the resources and capacity to provide access to only a very limited set of ebooks—often well under a thousand. Given the centrality of books in our culture, providing a much larger array of them to all libraries is of utmost importance. The Internet Archive's proposal maps out extraordinarily well a mechanism and process for all libraries to participate in a network that will support a vastly increased common collection—literally increasing that collection by several orders of magnitude for the average library.

Moreover, as the proposal highlights, there are populations that are especially disadvantaged in their access to ebooks. Those with vision disabilities are only one segment of a very large portion of the global public that currently has a set of hurdles to reading the full range of human expression held within the book collections of our libraries. The Internet Archive's proposed project would knock down these hurdles in relatively short order.

Moving from the public library world to the world of academic libraries that I now inhabit, I can see similar, quite major inequalities. Here at Northeastern, we have roughly a half-million book titles in our library, significantly more





# Northeastern University

## *University Libraries*

than the average public library but less than 1/30<sup>th</sup> the number at some of the other research libraries in the Boston area, such as Harvard's. And we are a relatively well-resourced university compared to thousands of others nationally and internationally. Being able to join our collection digitally with millions of other volumes from other libraries is an extremely exciting prospect, one that we would relish pursuing.

It is clear from the Internet Archive's long track record of providing digital access that they can bring this project to fruition. The project plan is hugely ambitious but also quite doable with the combination of their infrastructure, staff, and the many partners who have lined up in support of this proposal. I hope that they are successful and that the great riches locked up in millions of books can be made available to all.

*University Libraries*

320 Snell Library  
360 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

617.373.5001  
f 617.373.5409

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Cohen".

Dan Cohen  
Vice Provost for Information Collaboration  
Dean, University Libraries  
Professor of History  
Northeastern University

d.cohen@northeastern.edu



June 22, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Re: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear Board Members,

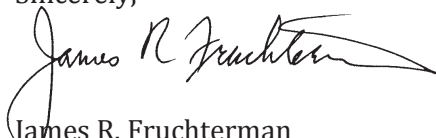
I am writing to provide my enthusiastic support for the Internet Archive's 100&Change proposal, both as an individual leader in the field and in my capacity as CEO of Benetech and founder of Benetech's largest program, the Bookshare online library for people with disabilities such as blindness or dyslexia. I am personally serving as an advisor to the Open Libraries Project, and Benetech has committed to extensively support the Internet Archive in this project once funded.

The Internet Archive and Benetech share a vision of ensuring that the reinvention of the traditional library fully includes persons with disabilities. The digital book is intrinsically far more usable for readers with disabilities than the traditional printed book, and can reach far more of this community. The combined efforts of the largest digital library for the general public, Internet Archive's Open Library, and Benetech's largest digital library for people with disabilities, Bookshare, will make it possible for many millions of readers to have far greater access to the written word, both in the United States and around the globe. Digital libraries also offer terrific leverage in cost-effectiveness, making it practical to serve millions of people with modest resources compared to traditional print-book libraries.

Both Internet Archive and Benetech are trailblazers in using the public interest aspects of copyright law to maximize access to books for neglected communities. Our joint effort intends to expand that access by fully using the fair use exception and the 1:1 lending model inside the United States to help the Open Library deliver accessible books to American readers with a full range of disabilities (15-20% of all Americans), including the majority who do not meet the narrower disability copyright exception (less than 5% of Americans). At the same time, we'll use the newly in-force Marrakesh Treaty, which replicates the American disability copyright exception, to expand access to the combined collections of our two libraries.

This last point is the most ambitious objective of this partnership from Benetech's standpoint. We want to ensure that everybody in the world with a qualifying disability will have access to both the Open Library and Bookshare collections for free, expanding access to books for education, employment and social inclusion. In short, creating a global free library for people with disabilities!

Sincerely,



James R. Fruchterman  
CEO and Founder, Benetech



Dated: 6/7/2017

Dear Members of the MacArthur Foundation Board,

We write to express our support to the Internet Archive for its proposal to make millions of books available in accessible digital formats for persons with print disabilities around the world.

The Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) is a non-profit organisation that undertakes interdisciplinary research on internet and digital technologies from policy and academic perspectives. The areas of focus include digital accessibility for persons with disabilities, access to knowledge, intellectual property rights, openness (including open data, free and open source software, open standards, open access, open educational resources, and open video), internet governance, telecommunication reform, digital privacy, and cyber-security.

The Accessibility and Inclusion Programme is an integral part of CIS, which envisions a world where all people, including those with disabilities can lead a life of full inclusion, participation, independence and dignity and are enabled to access the Internet using information and communications technologies on an equal basis without discrimination or barriers.

One of the true joys of life is that derived from reading books. It is always a cherished memory of childhood, a building block of one's growing years and a fundamental part of adult life. Unfortunately millions of persons with print disabilities around the world, more especially in developing countries around the APAC and other regions have severely limited access to books. The project proposed by Internet Archive to digitise millions of books in accessible formats is immensely important and timely for us. CIS has always been working towards the cause of opening up books for the print disabled in India, starting with our work to amend the Indian Copyright Act to include an exception on fair dealing for persons with disabilities, nearly a decade ago, conducting right to read campaigns around India, participating actively in the WIPO negotiations on the Marrakesh Treaty to which India was the first ratifying country, to our other work to digitise Educational content in regional languages in Daisy and creating text to speech engines for 10 Indian languages, we have tried to address the problem of non-availability of accessible content in different ways. The last year also witnessed the opening of the accessible digital library of India. Hence we were very excited to learn of this project and the opportunity to be an integral part of it. We hope to support through facilitating addition of regional language books in India and content that will benefit neighbouring countries sharing similar languages, building useful ties and networks to expand the work, provide technical and strategic advice and in any other way which is required of us to make this project successful and make available millions of books in the hands of Indians with print disabilities.

This project will positively impact the lives of millions of people in a wonderful way. We request MF to consider this with favour.

Yours sincerely

Sunil Abraham



July 3, 2017

Re: 100&Change - letter of support for Internet Archive

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

Since 1948, Learning Ally has represented the critical difference between isolation and integration, between frustration and pride, and between struggle and success in the classroom and workplace for millions. Our history can be traced to the top floor of the New York Public Library in 1948, when we were founded as Recording for the Blind (RFB) to fulfill the need for recorded textbooks for soldiers blinded in WWII. Their sudden loss of vision and access to print precluded these capable and motivated young people from completing their educations and accessing knowledge.

Today, Learning Ally continues its heritage of enabling life-changing impact as we focus on the estimated 6 out of 10 students who read below grade level. For many of these young people, their print-based learning disabilities are the root cause of their reading struggles. Without reading, these students are inhibited from instruction, suffer academically, and develop negative attitudes to their abilities and self-worth.

Our solution provides K-12 public school educators with resources to help them better understand how their students learn and our audiobooks enable students to read and demonstrate their academic potential. As a result, they are able to better engage in classroom instruction, take ownership of their learning, and avoid social penalties around dropout, unemployment, and incarceration which research suggests are more likely to occur among students with learning disabilities.

The Internet Archive will expand the ability of libraries to deliver on their role as great equalizers, providing access to books and other resources to those who might not otherwise be able to access them. A new generation of learners will have public access to knowledge as the project curate, digitizes, and make available in digital form four million books to any library that owns the physical book.

As Internet Archive makes these formats digital, new opportunities are created to deliver these into today's classrooms and enable libraries to add their strengths in addressing the needs of struggling readers. Learning Ally is proud to partner with Internet Archive to find ways in making this knowledge both available but also integrated in the instruction of thousands of classrooms that we serve daily.

Our vision is for all people to have equal opportunities to learn. Our organizations share this vision. We are proud to endorse the Internet Archive as they work to unlock a century of knowledge from print and make libraries worldwide both accessible and equitable.

Sincerely,



Andrew Friedman  
President and CEO  
Learning Ally

# :LIGHTHOUSE:

FOR THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED

June 23, 2017

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

The LightHouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired is extremely excited by the opportunity to collaborate with the Internet Archive on this innovative proposal for improving access to information for people with visual disabilities. The proposed project to bring 4 million books online and ensure they are available to the print disabled around the world would make a major difference to many blind and visually-impaired people in their ability to access the world's knowledge. Access to information helps provide personal independence, is necessary to succeed in education and employment and essential to participating in society.

Headquartered in San Francisco, California, the LightHouse strives to promote social equality and independence, providing education, training, advocacy, and community for blind individuals in California and around the world. It is the position of the LightHouse that everyone with a visual, physical or learning disability has a right to equal access to all forms of information available to the general public and one of our goals is to provide access to the printed word for individuals who are unable to read conventional print.

Expert in such things as web accessibility and adaptive technology, the LightHouse, through thorough consideration of access to information, can ensure the Internet Archive enhances the experience for blind and visually impaired visitors and does not inadvertently create access barriers for the 285 million people worldwide who are visually impaired.

Greg Kehret will serve as the LightHouse's primary contact for this project, and will coordinate with the Internet Archive and other project partners as needed. His responsibilities will include, but not be limited to:

- Coordination of usability studies and consumer feedback
- Consultation with Internet Archive on the archive.org visitor experience workflow;
- Assist and advise Internet Archive staff and other project partners as needed throughout the project period.

We look forward to beginning this exciting project.

Sincerely,



Greg Kehret

Director, Media and Accessible Design Lab

lighthouse-sf.org | Voice: 415.431.1481 | Fax: 415.863.7568 | VP: 415. 255. 5906





One Tower Lane, Suite 1825, Oakbrook Terrace, IL – 60181  
E-mail : [sam@sampitroda.com](mailto:sam@sampitroda.com) Phone : +1.630.965.1253

July 7, 2017

To,  
The Board of Directors  
MacArthur Foundation

Re: Internet Archive's OpenLibraries Initiative for *100&Change*

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing to provide my support for the Internet Archive's proposal for the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change grant.

I have dedicated my life to broadening access to information and bridging digital divide in developing countries. In the mid-1980s, I worked in India to establish the Center for Development of Telematics, commonly (C-DOT), to build human capacity and build Indian telecom & software industry. Then India had 2 million phones and now India is a country of connected billion with 1.2 billion phones. At the same time, India also generates over \$140 billion in export for software & related services. The vision was to focus on digital telecom to bring about openness, accessibility, connectivity, networking, democratization and decentralization and as a result social transformation.

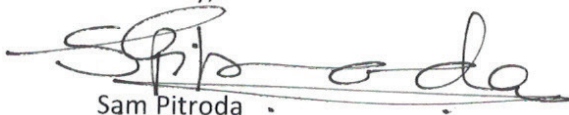
Recently I participated in announcing the Internet Archive's hosting of 500,000 digitized books from the Digital Library of India. The Internet Archive is a great partner for India in this. This project can take this another step.

To ensure that access to knowledge is available in India, I'm happy to endorse the Internet Archive as they work to bring four million books online and provide access to materials to those who might not otherwise be able to access them — specifically those with disabilities.

India is home to fifteen million blind people, one of the largest blind populations in the world, so it is crucial that we make information available to these people with print disabilities. Most of these are young with great hope and aspirations. They are also technology friendly and will benefit from digital library. We support Internet Archive's eBook dissemination plan for the print disabled beginning with India and other countries.

I support a wider distribution of digital texts across the world specially in developing countries with focus on inclusion, education, health & environment. Let's bring down the barriers and democratize information to educate and enhance quality of life for the people at the bottom of the economic pyramid in rural areas and in disabled communities.

Sincerely,



Sam Pitroda



## Whose Knowledge?

The Board of Directors,  
The MacArthur Foundation.

28 June 2017

### **Letter of Support for Internet Archive's Open Libraries proposal for the 100&Change Competition**

Dear Board of Directors of the MacArthur Foundation,

As the founders of *Whose Knowledge?* — a global, multi-lingual campaign to make knowledge on the internet more diverse and plural — we strongly support the goals of the Internet Archive's Open Libraries initiative, a project that seeks to bring millions of books to billions of marginalised people around the globe. Our mission is in great alignment with the Internet Archive's. We seek to infuse the internet with the histories and knowledges of marginalised communities who make up the majority of the world's population, particularly: women, people of colour, LGBTQI communities, indigenous peoples, and others from the global South. The Open Libraries project will not only give more diverse people access to knowledge, but it seeks to also bring a more diverse and inclusive mix of voices online through the books it digitises.

We founded the *Whose Knowledge?* campaign in 2016 after working at the intersections of social justice, human rights and technology movements for a collective 30 years. Before starting *Whose Knowledge?*, we were both at the Wikimedia Foundation, the non-profit that operates Wikipedia and its sister sites: [Anasuya](#) as Chief Grantmaking/Community Engagement Officer and [Siko](#) as Director of Community Resources.

We write to you today as proud partners of the Internet Archive, the pre-eminent online library for the world, particularly in its proposal to bring 4 million diverse and inclusive digitised books to those with accessibility and access issues. Anasuya is also honoured to be an [advisor](#) for this critical and ambitious vision of Open Libraries. We are helping the team reach beyond the United States and connect directly with populations they seek to serve, including in India.

As feminists from the global South and North and spaces between, we have constantly challenged the structural biases that exist against multiple and intersectional identities, including of gender, sexuality, race, class, geography, language and ability. However, through working in the free and open knowledge movement, we have learnt how significant these biases are when transmitted online, and what they imply.

If we use Wikipedia as a proxy indicator of online public knowledge, only [20% of the world](#) (primarily white male editors from North America and Europe) edits 80% of Wikipedia currently, and only [1 in 10 of the editors](#) is estimated to self-identify as female. Anecdotally, we know very few Wikipedia editors who are visually disabled. And yet, only a fourth of the [world's online population](#)

**Whose Knowledge?**

<http://whoseknowledge.org/>

117 Wilkes Circle, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*We are an unincorporated nonprofit association with 501(c)3 fiscal sponsorship from Peace Development Fund.*

1



## Whose Knowledge?

comes from North America and Europe, and the 285 million people who are [visually disabled globally](#), are nearly the population of the United States.

Why does the majority of the world not have voice and visibility on Wikipedia and the broader internet? One critical reason is that most of the world does not have easy access to knowledge - to the *sources* that are published books, journals and other materials - that constitute the foundation of Wikipedia and other forms of public knowledge. The majority of the world's libraries and their collections are in the global North, in places and spaces that privilege a minority of the world.

Why does this matter? When a young Dalit woman from Daulatabad with no easy access to libraries cannot read her own community's scholarship, she cannot fight back the oppression of centuries of being considered "untouchable," and having her history and knowledge denied. When a Native American scholar from a reservation in Southern California does not have easy access to the history of the Gold Rush as described by his own peoples, he cannot easily establish that the Gold Rush may have been "progress" for the white settlers, but it was genocide for the Native Americans. Without access to the cultures, histories and knowledges that are embodied in books, it is difficult to create reliable public knowledge, on sites such as Wikipedia. And as the internet becomes the default library of the world, and Wikipedia its default encyclopaedia, the reality is that if you're not online, you're not in Wikipedia, you don't exist.

For us, the free and open knowledge movement brings together some of the most critical human rights and social justice issues of our time. The historical oppressions of colonisation and imperialism, of sexism and racism, of power and privilege, have found a new space in which to entrench themselves: the internet. At the same time, the internet offers an unparalleled opportunity to deconstruct these oppressions and reconstruct freedom and dignity for all peoples. And it is only through efforts like that of the Internet Archive that we can begin to offer marginalised communities around the world access to different forms of knowledge, and in turn, celebrate and learn from the uncovering of their own rich and diverse knowledges.

As partners of the Internet Archive, we are committed to working with our global networks across the Wikimedia, feminist, indigenous, disability and human rights movements, to ensure that the 4 million books that are digitised reflect the needs and aspirations of these communities. We will work towards ensuring that the young Dalit woman can read her own community's scholarship online and feel empowered, and that the Native American scholar can use it to change the historical perspective on the Gold Rush. Free and open knowledge is not just free as in beer, it is truly free as in *libre*.

Anasuya Sengupta and Siko Bouterse  
Co-founders and Coordinators, *Whose Knowledge?*

**Whose Knowledge?**

<http://whoseknowledge.org/>

117 Wilkes Circle, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

*We are an unincorporated nonprofit association with 501(c)3 fiscal sponsorship from Peace Development Fund.*

2





## College Promise Campaign

727 15<sup>th</sup> Street., NW, Suite 300,  
Washington, DC, 20005

[martha@civiction.org](mailto:martha@civiction.org)  
408-497-5939  
[collegepromise.org](http://collegepromise.org)

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the College Promise Campaign and Civic Nation, to extend our wholehearted support of the Internet Archive (IA)'s submission to [MacArthur's100&Change competition](#). I also write from my perspective in my former capacities as President Obama's U.S. Under Secretary of Education (2009-2013), NYU professor, and a decades-long community college faculty member, president and chancellor.

The College Promise Campaign is a major initiative of Civic Nation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan corporation in Washington, D.C. that works with public and private U.S. partners to create and leverage tools and campaigns to build public awareness, organize and engage local communities, states and our nation to address America's most pressing problems in education, equity, violence, and citizenship. Home to seven national initiatives, Civic Nation houses the College Promise Campaign (CPC) dedicated to helping communities and states build the "*free college movement*" to make the first two years, at a minimum, universal and freely available to youth and adults seeking an education beyond high school.

Announced by President Obama in September 2015, the CPC has worked to triple the now more than 200 local communities and 8 states supporting College Promise programs. The CPC is focused on identifying and promoting evidence-based research, policy, communications, advocacy and leadership development to support cross-sector leaders from business, philanthropy, education and government committed to working together to make and keep some or all of a college education affordable for our nation's students, starting in but not limited to our nation's community colleges. IA's proposal would enable our nation's 7,000+ colleges and universities, and the 25 million undergraduate and graduate students to utilize the anticipated collection of 4 million digitized open books from diverse audiences and locations to serve youth and adults here and across the world. Of these institutions of higher education, half of U.S. students attend one of the 1200 community colleges in every state. The majority of college students who are low-income, first generation, disabled, and/or from minority communities attend an American community college. Further, a select number of leading community colleges are now making open, freely available textbooks available for entire departments, majors and disciplines to eliminate rising textbook costs that increase college costs and fall harshly on low-income students to cover. These institutions and community college students would reap enormous academic and financial benefits from their enabled access to a wealth of public domain books and materials generated from IA's proposal.

On a personal note, having worked with my Foothill-De Anza Community College District governing board in 2000 to pass the first Open Educational Resources policy for community colleges, I can think of no better investment in the world's future that the MacArthur Foundation can make than to enable 4 million more PD books to be put into our nation's classrooms and libraries. In doing so, the College



## College Promise Campaign

727 15<sup>th</sup> Street., NW, Suite 300,  
Washington, DC, 20005

[martha@civiction.org](mailto:martha@civiction.org)  
408-497-5939  
[collegepromise.org](http://collegepromise.org)

Promise Campaign would build on the work now underway to reduce or eliminate textbook costs in college courses across the country. Publishing companies are scrambling to identify alternate revenue streams to recover lost profits as the OER movement expands. This 20-year OER challenge would receive an enormous boost if the MacArthur Board were to select IA's ambitious proposal. Annually, millions of undergraduate and graduate students would benefit from this dramatic investment, replacing costly college textbooks with OER, on average saving students an estimated \$1000 or more per year. If funded, IA would make PD resources available for use by more than 4 million U.S. professors and academic staff. Beyond the U.S., professors, K-12 teachers from around the world would avail themselves of these unparalleled PD resources. Further, prior major U.S. investments, including the Arab Open Book project, could leverage the IA repository and resources to advance new methods and connected networks for preserving and disseminating at-risk knowledge compilations and repositories as well as open repositories that exist today via OER Commons and other open collections at major universities.

IA is uniquely suited to take on this challenge. It has already built the largest, most diverse open collection of books and citations in the world. Its leaders and staff have the composite knowledge and expertise to engage the widest possible communities and, in turn, their leaders to ensure the proposal's success. And IA is unafraid to take risks and build the trusted networks beyond those it has already secured to advance momentum, engagement and deliverables outlined in its proposal.

Today, our nation and the world are at risk. We face an enormous national and international leadership predicament wrought by violence and discrimination challenging every civil and human right on earth. This conundrum exacerbated by the largely undereducated haves and have-nots will only subside in the long-term by growing a more highly educated population – people in local communities who gain knowledge and expertise to increase their social and economic mobility while garnering a deeper appreciation of differences, diversities, and communities. Access to knowledge that the IA would make available will provide a long-term, invaluable resource in curbing marginalization, fear, and ignorance across our world. I hope you will select IA's proposal to win [MacArthur's100&Change competition](#).

Best regards,

Martha Kanter, Ed.D., Executive Director  
College Promise Campaign @Civic Nation  
U.S. Under Secretary of Education (2009-2013)  
Senior Fellow, New York University



June 13, 2017

**Internet Archive's Library of 2020**  
***Providing Libraries & Learners with Free Digital Access to 4 Million Books***

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education (ISKME) is pleased to offer its committed support for the Internet Archive Library of 2020 project proposal for the *100&Change* competition. The project has the potential to uniquely transform access to books and knowledge globally, to impact millions of readers with print disabilities, and to advance a culture around the continuous improvement of teaching and learning generally. The project is well-aligned to ISKME's mission, and to our substantial body of research on accessing, using, co-creating, and sharing knowledge and digital resources, and the impact of those behaviors on teaching and learning.

**About ISKME**

The Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education ([iskme.org](http://iskme.org)) is a pioneer in knowledge sharing and educational innovation.

ISKME is best-known for its award-winning OER Commons initiative as well as its international research agenda on information and knowledge use in the education sector.

An independent, education nonprofit established in 2002, ISKME's research and development efforts enable schools, colleges, universities, and the organizations that support them to expand their capacity to collect and share information, and create knowledge-driven environments focused on learning and success.

ISKME is an independent education nonprofit whose mission is to improve the practice of continuous learning, collaboration, and change in the education sector. Founded in 2002, ISKME is well known for its pioneering open education initiatives and thought leadership. Launched in 2007, ISKME's [OER Commons](#) is a public digital library and collaboration platform built to ensure the adoption and continuous improvement of open educational resources (OER).

Defined as no-cost, openly licensed, and freely adaptable curricula, OER is seen as a legal, economic, technical, and pedagogical solution to the demand for access to high-quality teaching and learning materials. A survey of more than 22,000 higher education students in Florida – spanning all 11 state universities and 22 of its 28 colleges, community colleges and state colleges – found [that 64 percent of students reported having not purchased a required textbook](#) because of its high cost.

To meet an urgent need for equitable access to quality content for all, ISKME has been working with K-12 and higher education partners since 2004 to identify effective OER adoption and engagement strategies, formulate OER policy agendas for stakeholders at all levels, as well as to increase access to and improvement of the growing body of OER. ISKME works directly with teachers, administrators, librarians, technology specialists, learners, and others to better integrate OER across digital learning platforms and to support the effective use of digital resources by all.

As a committed partner of the proposed project, ISKME strongly supports the Internet Archive's vision to enable millions with print disabilities, and, educators and learners everywhere, to access and make the best use of the digitized content. As a project adviser around the interoperability of and engagement with the digitized book content, and through integrated use of the OER Commons platform with the Internet Archive, ISKME sees the project as advancing an unprecedented opportunity to advance open and freely available curriculum around digitized book content, as a primary outcome of this supported access.

The project offers an innovative and viable plan for libraries to expand their abilities to impact lives, and for readers and learners everywhere to take advantage of important books as digital technologies and support systems continue to evolve into the future.

Sincerely,

Lisa Petrides, Ph.D.  
ISKME CEO and Founder

July 4, 2017

5-07 Cameron Library  
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2J8  
Tel: 780.492.5170  
Fax: 780.492.7925  
[www.ls.ualberta.ca](http://www.ls.ualberta.ca)

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

The University of Alberta, with a student population of over 37,000, is a public university regularly named among the top five research-intensive universities in Canada, dedicated to the promise made by Founding President Henry Marshall Tory that "knowledge shall not be the concern of scholars alone. The uplifting of the whole people shall be its final goal."

As Vice-Provost and Chief Librarian, I have overall responsibility for the University of Alberta's library, the second-largest academic library in Canada, as well as the university's bookstores, Museums and Collections Services, Technology Training Centre and Copyright Office. I am proud to be writing this letter of support for our partner, the Internet Archive.

Over the last hundred years or so, the University of Alberta Libraries has collected more than seven million library items in all languages from all over the world. We are currently constructing a building to preserve and make accessible these physical collections on our South Campus. It will be completed this September.

Like other libraries, we have also been steadily digitizing materials with the assistance of the Internet Archive. After nearly a decade, we are up to about 90,000 items. More importantly, we now have total confidence in our partner that it is uniquely positioned to deliver high quality digitized materials through an openly accessible platform to all readers – including those with visual impairments - while respecting the library's stringent copyright and privacy requirements. By enabling the University of Alberta to return digitized versions of its books to the world, MacArthur Foundation support for the Internet Archive will help us realize a critical component of the promise President Tory made over a century ago.

During the next five years, we will grow our contribution to IA's goal by routing 500,000 additional items through the IA's super scanning center. We would not be able to achieve this without our partner. We are so proud to be part of a project that will provide public access to the authentic foundations for knowledge creation in this way.

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to provide this enthusiastic letter of support for the Internet Archive's "100&Change" proposal.

Sincerely,



Gerald Beasley  
Vice-Provost & Chief Librarian

cc Geoff Harder, AUL Digital Initiatives

**John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation**  
140 s. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60603

July 10, 2017

**Attn: Board of Directors**

**Re: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change**

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

I am writing to confirm New Knowledge Organization Ltd.'s commitment to the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project, and to convey our intent to serve as independent external evaluators to monitor the evolving nature of the initiative, provide the team with timely information on the context in which it is working, and to identify paths for them to achieve maximum impact with the MacArthur Foundation's investment.

New Knowledge Organization Ltd. (NewKnowledge) is an interdisciplinary charitable 501(c)(3) social science think tank collaborating with change-makers to build a strong, healthy democracy and thriving biosphere. We are committed to helping organizations increase access to and promote effective use of information to build stronger social capacity. Core to our mission is providing critical thinking and empirical data to build our partners' effectiveness and efficiency. We are committed to principles of pluralism and believe that everyone benefits from effective partnerships. We look forward to a close working relationship with the UW's Information School to understand the lived experience of users and the cultural groups who rely on their libraries as a critical path to knowledge development.

We feel this project is aligned to our expertise as researchers who are deeply engaged with social change initiatives. With support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services, we have helped develop national impact measurement programs to fully assess how libraries are serving more important social functions than ever before. For US residents living at the lower end of the socio-economic strata, and those challenged to overcome physical barriers, the digital divide has abandoned them to minimal to no service from the commercial enterprises that dominate the Web. Low-income status and lack of learning resource accessibility has made libraries the sole lifeline to knowledge work and personal advancement for many members of our society. Our own reanalysis of data developed by UW's TASCHA found a nearly 1:1 correlation between those using libraries to develop new small businesses and the total number of entrepreneurs building the United States' new economy on which GDP growth depends. Despite political statements that seem to imply that everything is online and free, the Open Libraries project offers the first opportunity to help the digital universe live up to the promise and fulfill the needs of those people left behind in the rapid commercialization, monetizing, and paywall protections that perpetuate the cycle of poverty in our country.

tel: (347) 766-3399  
13 East 37<sup>th</sup> St., 7<sup>th</sup> FL  
New York, NY 10016

tel: (442) 222-8814  
3630 Ocean Ranch Blvd.  
Oceanside, CA 92056

**New Knowledge Organization Ltd.**  
*Facing Society's Grand Challenges Head On*

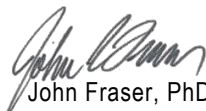
The collaboration with Internet Archive affords unique opportunities to leverage our work with cultural institutions and human rights education. The large-scale effort and strategic partnerships are structured to ensure we can collaborate with a growing community of communities who seek to see their cultures represented in their public libraries and academic collections. As the US becomes a majority minority country, too often the dominant cultural narrative present in library collections and now more tellingly in digital collections, has been the story of an oversimplified western paradigm. To meet this need, our team of human rights workers have developed strategies for helping communities raise their voices and share their priorities as central to any success measure. By applying these strategies to the Open Libraries Project, we are confident we can help ensure the collections acquisition priorities are articulated, vetted within service communities, and that value is placed on diversity of content with utility to all people, including underserved communities. Our overall evaluation goal is to use best practices in social science to ensure the Open Libraries project advances good for those left behind in the digital revolution.

We were pleased to collaborate with the Internet Archive team, our colleagues at the UW Information School, and the Digital Library Foundation to create a culturally responsive monitoring and evaluation plan that is now embedded in this submission to the 100&Change initiative. We believe this plan is culturally responsive and has the flexibility to adapt to change as the program grows.

As outlined in the submission, NewKnowledge is committed to implementing the work through a series of specific activities that build understanding of the evolving nature of impact and to stress-test assumptions or project strategies. We will: (1) Oversee the integrated overall evaluation program and provide reporting to the field and back to Internet Archive to ensure data is representative of the lived experience of users; (2) Lead community responsive evaluation and benchmarking to ensure all voices are providing input to the program; (3) Coordinate the project leadership and M&E team on development of annual evaluation priorities and undertake or commission expert evaluation to assess these issues; (4) Coordinate risk assessment and monitoring of the changing contexts that shape the cultural engagement with digital content; and (5) Assess legacy plans and anticipated impacts at the conclusion of the funded effort.

We look forward to supporting this initiative as it finally helps the Information Age evolve to a place where digital assets serve all people. Thank you for opportunity to help you build and realize this vision.

Sincerely,



John Fraser, PhD AIA  
President & CEO





## UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

THE INFORMATION SCHOOL

July 5, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago IL 60603

SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

I am writing to express the University of Washington Information School's commitment to the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project, and to convey our intent to support, advise, and fully participate in this initiative.

The Information School believes that access to and effective use of information is key to making a better world. Core to our mission is researching the problems and opportunities of information and designing solutions to information challenges. As a partner in supporting the Internet Archive's efforts, we can play a role in answering important questions that arise at the outset and throughout the implementation of the proposed program, developing and testing information solutions to meet specific needs and opportunities, and leveraging our standing in the library community to support the transformation of libraries worldwide. We believe that the Information School is strategically positioned to address questions surrounding the future of libraries through collaboration with our peers in the academy and the profession, and to direct and influence the practice of librarianship and the role that libraries must play in the lives of people and communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Information School's participation in this project will provide benefits through applying our strengths as a multi-disciplinary, research focused institution that addresses important questions about how information can improve lives.

In addition to the general support of the Information School, this project will draw upon specialized expertise that resides in two research groups within the School. The Technology & Social Change Group (TASCHA) is a globally recognized center for the study of information and communication technologies, public libraries, and international development. TASCHA, along with the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the United States Public Library Association (PLA), have received major, long-term support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to accelerate the transformation of public libraries as critical centers of learning, creativity, and community development. TASCHA's role is to drive research and innovation, engaging thought leaders from within and outside the library sector to incubate new ideas and solutions in partnership with organizations at the forefront of fostering societal change. The Open Libraries work will build upon TASCHA's track record of research around the impact of technologies in more than 50 countries over 10 years, including research on public libraries as venues for access to information.

The DataLab is a research community at the Information School focused on developing and applying data science methods to projects that involve data, people and decisions. The DataLab has received numerous awards from the National Science Foundation, Sloan Foundation, Knight Foundation, Microsoft Research, Intel Research, and USAID, among many others. The Lab consists of six core faculty, 12 PhD students, and



2 postdocs with specialties in data curation, information visualization, computational social science, database engineering, scientometrics and machine learning. The Internet Archive collaboration is a sweet spot for the Lab's skillset and research interests. It involves a large-scale, heterogeneous dataset within the library community that requires more than just skills in designing APIs, computational infrastructure, visual analytics platforms and statistical inference but also careful consideration of ethical practices in delivering these data and results to the broader community. Our overall research goal is to leverage data for the social good, in an ethical manner that can inform policy and impact lives for the better. The Internet Archive project helps the Lab meet these goals and the faculty are excited to engage with the work proposed.

We believe that the Internet Archive's proposed project is a unique one that addresses the immediate challenge of expanding access to the world's knowledge through a digitize-and-lend model while collaborating with the research and practice communities to develop a sustainable model that will result in a systemic shift in how information is provided at scale. The careful attention to existing practices within the publishing and distribution industry will provide a solid substrate to build upon, and engage key partners in a way that meets their diverse needs, while reaching a wide audience that currently does not have access to digital materials.

We will work to implement this vision through a set of three inter-related activities centered on the aggregation of project-generated data along with data already available from others to provide a resource designed to answer questions related to key challenges around access to and use of digital knowledge. This project offers a unique, large-scale opportunity to provide access to this data through a systematic approach that the research and practice communities can use to investigate and improve the delivery and use of digital knowledge.

The first activity will involve working in partnership with Internet Archive and others to create the Impact Data Trust, a transparent, public repository for the impact data generated from the project. This work stream will focus on designing a conceptual model of the policies and processes necessary to foster successful access to and use of the data for researchers, library practitioners, and the IA. This repository and access model will serve as the basis for the second activity, which focuses on developing analytic tools to query and use the aggregated data to answer basic research questions and more advanced inquiries regarding the impact of the project, as well as providing support for the ongoing project evaluation. The third activity will ensure that the repository becomes a resource for the broader community; we will undertake a variety of activities designed to mobilize the research and practice communities to use the repository to analyze and share their data-driven insights with each other and the broader community. All of these activities will focus on understanding and answering questions related to the impact of expanded access to the resources provided through the IA project.

The Information School looks forward to bringing its expertise and resources to this multi-partner collaboration to bring the unique vision of the Internet Archive to reality. We embrace the opportunity for transforming the digital knowledge landscape and look forward to participating over the project's lifespan.

Sincerely,



Harry Bruce  
Dean and Professor



PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY AT COPLEY SQUARE | BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY

700 BOYLSTON STREET | BOSTON | MA 02116 | 617.536.5400 | WWW.BPL.ORG

John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603-5285

7/10/17

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

Please accept this letter in support of the Internet Archive's application to the MacArthur 100&Change Competition. This effort and project by the Internet Archive, with its direct and supporting partners, has the potential to truly democratize access to information and knowledge on a global scale. It is particularly opportune - now is the moment for such a project due to the following: we continue to approach global ubiquity of internet access and internet-enabled devices; the universe of published works is in fact still a finite number and thus addressable at scale; there is a strong desire for globalization to deliver on its promises of greater benefit to humanity, and this project promises a baseline and model for continued global access to information and standards of knowledge sharing.

The Boston Public library was a bold and transformative idea in 1848, when its charter was formalized, combining visionary leadership, private resources and an understanding of the public good, all to deliver unprecedented access to printed materials for the education and cultural enrichment of the general population.

We live in times that are both very different, yet filled with many challenges which resonate with that founding time. The Internet Archive's program, funded by the MacArthur Challenge, could be that new bold idea, one with global reach in our ever more connected society, one focused on ensuring no one is left behind in the race for greater access to knowledge, information access and technological enablement.

The Boston Public Library is committed to contributing to this initiative and to continue its long standing partnership with the Internet Archive, making our resources available to the greatest number of users possible.

In this respect, the phrase 'free to all' captures the essence of our mission and partnering with the Internet Archive scales that mission.

Our recent pilot program of lending digital copies of specific in-copyright Houghton Mifflin books provides a model of "one-to-one" lending that allows us to unlock previously unavailable out of print

materials for general public lending. This is a big step forward in crafting productive partnerships with publishers for in-copyright lending of previously non-digital titles, which the MacArthur grant could further leverage.

We have also identified special collections materials from the golden ages of English and Spanish literature, for example, of staggering rarity and which are not currently available in one place. While subsets are available behind paywalls, this is not material that should in any way be a revenue generator in its own right. Materials that seem obscure or interesting only from a historian's point of view, when considered in aggregate and in context (which online cross-linking makes possible), turn into a rich educational and cultural opportunity for learning.

The Boston Public Library fully endorses this application and stands ready to engage with this initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'D. Leonard', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Leonard

President, Boston Public Library



July 11, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Re: Letter of Support for Internet Archive's proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am pleased to offer the enthusiastic support of the Los Angeles Public Library to the Internet Archive's Open Library Project and declare our intent to advise and fully participate in the project. The proposal's objectives of increasing digital access to critical learning and research missing from the online environment matches up with the mission of the Los Angeles Public Library to provide free and easy access to information to enrich, educate, and empower every individual in our city's diverse communities. Librarians throughout the world are often asked about the relevance of libraries, since "everything is online now." The misperception that all information is available for free on the internet illustrates the need for libraries to develop partnerships to make available the breadth of human knowledge in a digital format.

The Los Angeles Public Library has deep collections in several subject areas that we are interested in sharing with the larger research community. We have an extensive collection of plays and screenplays and one of the largest drama collections in the country, which is heavily used by both the entertainment industry and local theater groups. The Social Sciences collection has a focus on books related to the history of social and civil unrest, which mirrors the social and political history of Los Angeles and the nation.

Our extensive international language collection could greatly expand the opportunity to make works available from under-represented communities. Spanish language is our largest collection, followed by Chinese, Korean, Russian, Armenian, Japanese, Vietnamese, and many other languages that reflect the rich history of the diverse urban population in Los Angeles. Several other collections at the Los Angeles Public Library are candidates for digitization including an extensive history of culinary arts, computer manuals from the inception of the PC to present, tracking the historical development of our contended world, and a rich collection of fiction set in Los Angeles dating back to the founding of the city.

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**John F. Szabo**, City Librarian

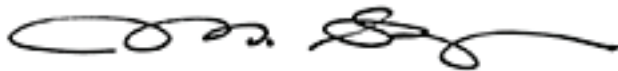
Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
July 11, 2017 – Page 2 of 2

We are thrilled to be a part of the initiative, and hope that it will bring some much-needed innovative thinking to inter-library loan systems, streamlining the process and making digital editions available while respecting the rights of authors. Currently, this process is slow and expensive – because of potential loss of items, some of the most valuable works are often unavailable for researchers.

The Internet Archive Open Library's digitize-and-lend model has the potential of freeing information from closed stacks, allowing the Library to move materials to offsite storage without compromising accessibility. Library spaces are evolving, and a greater variety of activities are happening in libraries, including providing spaces for active learning, co-working, and community gathering.

We are looking forward to collaborating with the Internet Archive and other partners in this venture and participate in unlocking analog collections and expanding access to information and knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John F. Szabo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John F. Szabo  
City Librarian

July 10, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

**SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change**

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

I am writing to express Sacramento Public Library's strong endorsement of the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project, and to convey our intent to support and fully participate in this initiative. Our mission of providing access to information so that our communities will discover, learn and grow will be significantly furthered by this exciting project. As a library system that covers California's capital region, and serves urban, suburban and rural communities, we are excited by the idea of sharing our rich history and collections beyond our boundaries. This project addresses critical issues of access. That access benefits the community served by the most fundamental of democratic institutions, the public library.

Sacramento Public Library witnessed the impact of the Internet Archive's prototype Open Libraries prototype, and this project represents a logical next step for that important work and we want to be part of it.

Sacramento Public Library would be pleased to share the following:

- **Hmong-language materials** Sacramento's Hmong population is estimated to be the third largest in the United States, and while Sacramento Public Library's collection of Hmong-language materials is small, we purchase materials as they become available. In addition to classic Hmong materials, we avidly collect children's materials to help Hmong children discover classic picture books such as *Leo the Late Bloomer* and *It Looked Like Spilt Milk*.
- **Sacramento Room Special Collections** This resource collection is national and international in scope with a primary focus on Northern California. It includes books, pamphlets, photographs, scrapbooks, yearbooks, maps, videos, audio recordings, ephemera and other printed material. The collection pays particular attention to the experience of people of color, the disabled, youth, the elderly, and other groups which are often marginalized. As we know from the requests that we receive, there is voracious interest in these collections in locations far and wide.



- **California State Fair** Sacramento Public Library has had an annual presence at the California State Fair since 2014, providing programming as well as a glimpse of library services and innovations such as 3D printing, ebooks and electronic resources. We would like to expand people's awareness of digitized collections and can imagine our booth featuring real-time digitization of historic materials. Imagine the excitement on the part of the general public as they make the connection between those family photographs and preserving them for future generations.

Sacramento Public Library is busy inventing the future of public libraries. We know that our communities need to have access and opportunity and to experience the known and unknown. We are keenly excited about the potential of this project to make new strides in how the general population may find access to our shared history. This project allows the sharing of collections and creates a new model that recognizes the importance of both copyright and provenance. Just as importantly, this project has the potential to realize enormous cost savings to libraries, savings that can go into building collections instead of slowly and laboriously moving physical materials. It will help libraries with their ongoing on-site space management needs, another way that costs can be contained and services expanded at the same time.

As California's fourth largest public library and has a history of innovation including our I Street Press, a Library of Things and a fully-formed program to enable adults to receive accredited high school diplomas. We are excited about the opportunity to share our collections, resources and enthusiasm in this unique and exciting venture.

Sincerely,



Rivkah K. Sass | Executive Director



CHICAGO PUBLIC LIBRARY  
CITY OF CHICAGO

July 10, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn St.  
Chicago, IL 60603

SUBJECT: Internet Archive Proposal for 100&Change

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing to express Chicago Public Library's endorsement of the Internet Archive's Open Libraries Project.

Libraries have always been, and continue to be, in the knowledge business. This does not mean however that that we are static and unchanging institutions. Instead libraries have evolved to support knowledge creation and dissemination in ways that are relevant to our communities' changing needs. Chicago Public Library started as a small library with a few thousand books in 1873 and has expanded to 80 locations throughout the City. How our users access and interact with information over that time has changed and thus we provide a plethora of library materials both print and digital, as well as multimedia and collaboration spaces like YOUmedia and the Maker Lab where patrons become content creators.

Chicago Public Library's strategic vision is to create and implement innovative solutions that meet our patrons' changing needs as we provide access to all in order to nurture learning, support economic advancement and strengthen communities. The 100&Change project specifically aligns with the Library's strategy of delivering services not only within our walls, but also in patrons' homes, schools and workplaces through an online presence as well as by promoting fully inclusive policies that support a principle of free and open access. As we look to Internet Archive as a leader in our digital world, specifically when it comes to increasing the number of published materials available online, we believe their proposal holds immense possibility for enabling and empowering this work. The incredible possibility that the 100&Change opportunity would provide Internet Archive to move the digital library world boldly forward is one that holds great promise for Chicago and far beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of Internet Archive's innovative proposal. We look forward to the impact it can have on us all.

Sincerely,



Brian Bannon  
Commissioner



New York  
Public  
Library

June 29, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing in support for the Internet Archive's grant proposal for the 100&Change program.

The Internet Archive has long been a leader and champion of efforts to build universal access to knowledge, a goal the New York Public Library also shares. As a public library -- in particular, with both research and circulating functions -- we are committed to the free availability of information for everyone across the world, especially those who face the greatest challenges. To this end, we support Internet Archive's effort to expand access to e-books and applaud their focus on individuals with print disabilities.

Over the past several years, the NYPL has been involved in an effort to improve the e-reading experience by creating an open library e-reader called SimplyE. This service is designed to allow libraries to provide e-books to their patrons for free, regardless of whether the content originates from commercial or non-commercial sources. Internet Archive is precisely the type of resource that SimplyE is designed to serve -- interested libraries and readers -- and we hope that other libraries will join us in such a partnership as we look to greatly expand upon the collections available to all.

Again, we fully support the Internet Archive's proposal and look forward to partnering with them in this latest endeavor.

Sincerely,

Anthony W. Marx

**Office of the President**

Stephen A. Schwarzman Building | Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018  
Phone: 212.930.0736 | Fax: 212.930.9299 | [president@nypl.org](mailto:president@nypl.org)



July 5, 2017

Board of Directors  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Board of Directors:

I am very pleased to offer this letter of support on behalf of Multnomah County Library for the Internet Archive's proposal to provide libraries and learners free digital access to four million books. We applaud the Internet Archive for being selected as a semi-finalist for 100&Change, the competition for a \$100 million grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Providing access to learning and the knowledge found in books, has long been a priority for Multnomah County Library and it is still one of our key priorities. "We champion reading" and our mission is "Empowering our community to learn and create." The library circulates over 19 million items annually (the fourth highest in the nation), but we realize that the use of physical books is declining while the demand for ebooks continues to climb.

In addition to the changing nature of the expectations of readers, Multnomah County Library has serious space constraints and new demands on our locations which limit the number of physical books that can be displayed in our libraries. We place a high priority on offering a rich and relevant collection, but libraries are for people and should not be warehouses for books in the modern age. As a library with increasing demands on our spaces for community connections, group learning opportunities and more, Libraries should not be book warehouses, but community forums. We can store the physical books we own offsite and make them available digitally through this model, freeing up spaces in libraries for people.

Partners like the Internet Archive are critical to helping libraries achieve a new vision for patrons. With \$100 million they could make 4 million books available anywhere, forever. In addition they will digitize many books published after 1923 that are just not available in ebook format yet, and for current and future generations this will be essential for their discoverability and to prevent their impending obscurity. Internet Archive has the capacity and technology to do this cost effectively, efficiently, and legally. Libraries should be able to lend the physical books we own in digital formats, based on the current and sound interpretation of copyright laws.

We value the work of the Internet Archive and look forward to seeing this proposal selected as the winner of 100&Change and for our participation to lead to more positive outcomes for Multnomah County residents in the coming years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vailey Oehlke".

Vailey Oehlke  
Director of Libraries



## GEORGETOWN LAW

**Michelle M. Wu**

Associate Dean for Library Services  
Professor of Law

June 30, 2017

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing today to express my strong support for the Internet Archive's (IA) vision to democratize access to information in its proposal to the MacArthur Foundation's 100&Change competition.

As the largest law school and second largest law school library in the nation, the Georgetown University Law Center and its library are committed to social justice, as reflected in our motto, "Law is but the means, justice is the end." Through the efforts of our faculty, centers, institutes, student groups, and alumni, we seek to make the law accessible, understandable, and effective in representing the many different interests worldwide. Past examples of our library's efforts include our hosting of federal circuit court opinions on our website before the courts themselves had the ability to provide access, partnering with the District of Columbia to [post opinions from their historic preservation offices](#), and serving as the home for the [National Equal Justice Library](#). Currently, we have been seeking collaborative partners to digitize and make publicly available public documents (e.g., circuit record and briefs) generally found only in microformat. We are also partnering with the Internet Archive to lend our digital collections.

The project outlined by the IA in their 100&Change proposal holds the promise of bridging one of the most dangerous divides of our time: an informational divide caused by the growing economic inequality in the United States. Poorer regions suffer from a variety of deficiencies, including lack of adequate funding for schools, public services, and libraries. This project would make possible the maximization of public investment in informational resources, not just for the benefit of the wealthy but also the neighborhoods that would otherwise never have access to rich information stores. Books purchased by wealthier neighborhoods could be made available for lower-resourced communities through interlibrary loan as they are now, but without incurring the shipping costs associated with ILL. Without the reduction in transaction costs made possible by digital delivery, these poorer communities may never have the opportunity to hear from diverse voices on issues stretching across the globe. Granted, even if this project succeeds, it is only one step. There are other barriers, like the digital divide, that will influence how impactful this would be, but the potential benefits themselves are staggering even should other divides persist.

111 G Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001-2075  
PHONE 202-662-6191  
[michelle.wu@law.georgetown.edu](mailto:michelle.wu@law.georgetown.edu)

IA's vision echoes back to the Founders' vision for copyright in the United States. Article I, Section 8, Clause 8, of the United States Constitution grants Congress the power "**To promote the progress of science and useful arts**, by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective writings and discoveries." (emphasis added) The end purpose of copyright was always for the public benefit, as knowledge was seen as being essential to an informed democracy. In crafting the nation's copyright framework, therefore, Congress enacted laws to maintain a balance between copyright holders and the public interest and has reiterated that necessary balance in every subsequent major piece of copyright legislation.

Copyright owners have already taken advantage of technology to expand their reach; where works used to be sold only by itinerant booksellers, they can now be distributed to millions instantaneously through the use of technology. Through technology, they have cut printing and shipping costs dramatically and reduced the necessity for overruns. Copyright owners have also developed new formats and new streams of commerce, some of which artificially limit the usefulness of works through the adoption of technology that has a limited lifespan. It is past time that technology is added to the other side of the scale, the side that speaks for the public interest. The concepts of collaboration, shared online collections, and controlled digital lending contained in IA's proposal restore copyright's balance, by allowing libraries to achieve the full value for the works they have purchased throughout the lifetime of the work. Libraries will continue to purchase works, ensuring that authors continue to receive remuneration for their creations, but they will also exercise the right to use what they have purchased even as technology changes.

Words cannot express how enthusiastic I am about IA's proposal, the promise it holds, and the necessity for it in a world where the divide between the haves and have nots only grows. This project contemplates a world in which resources can be used for the good of the whole of the nation, not just for the few.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle M. Wu', with a stylized, flowing script.

Michelle M. Wu  
Associate Dean for Library Services





Openwater

– Wearable MRI –

733 Front Street, Suite C1A  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
USA  
[www.opnwatr.io](http://www.opnwatr.io)

Dear MacArthur Foundation and Board Members,

It was in 1999 when I first started to say “If you want to figure out what Google is going to do look at what Brewster Kahle and the Internet Archive did 5 years ago”. It was true then and remains true today - archiving the web, scanning books, scaling it globally, the WayBack Machine. And on and on.

There is no organization on Earth more committed to creating, preserving and distributing our digital heritage.

I say this as a former top engineering executive at Google and Facebook. As a co-founder of One Laptop per Child and its first CTO, and as a lauded technology innovator. When I die my estate is going to the Internet Archive.

The Internet Archive, and the world of information users (that’s all of us) would benefit greatly from some small fraction of the muscle that the Archive’s powerful for-profit peers have, for it to effect the enormous positive change that it has in its mission.

There is a lost century of books from when copyright laws changed in the 1920s. Changes in law and policy have blocked the digitization and the dissemination of books since then. We lose our very history as it gets blocked and re-written - the books that formed many of us are not - and can not be - digitized and thus part of our history becomes inaccessible to future generations.

Luckily the town libraries have copies of these books.

The partnership of the Internet Archive with the country’s town libraries can enable modern digital access for the libraries. Perhaps more important is that working with these libraries’ archives can vastly extend the digitized lending library for the lost century of books. For each copy of Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring on the shelves of local libraries - another copy can be put into perpetual worldwide digital lending. And so it is for each book on the shelves of these libraries.

The Internet Archive embodies the best spirit of our time - to make information available to all - without profit motive, without discrimination or censorship on what the information is to be. Today, as the idea of knowledge as core to our culture is itself under attack, the Archive is our Library of Alexandria. Let's defend and propagate it!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MLJ', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr, Mary Lou Jepsen  
Founder and CEO, Openwater ([www.opnwatr.io](http://www.opnwatr.io))

---

Abby Smith Rumsey  
24 Beulah Street  
San Francisco CA 94117  
[abby@asrumsey.com](mailto:abby@asrumsey.com)  
[rumseywrites.com](http://rumseywrites.com)

June 30, 2017

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members:

I write to offer strong support for the Internet Archive's proposal for the 100 & Change competition. Bringing 4 million books online through purchase and digitization represents a breakthrough model for libraries to continue their vital work of providing access to knowledge in the digital age.

My three decades of professional experience working at the Library of Congress, the Council on Library Information Resources, the Scholarly Communication Institute at the University of Virginia, and service on the National Science Foundation's Blue Ribbon Task Force on the Economics of Digital Preservation and Access has given me front-line exposure to the promise and turmoil of digital delivery of information. For digital natives, online access—be it on the web, through apps, or via cloud services—is the default mode of reading. If a book is not accessible online, it will not be found and used. The knowledge held within it will be as good as lost. That is why libraries and archives are dedicating what resources they have to put the pre-1923 heritage of public domain knowledge online.

Paradoxically, it is the 90 years of recent publications, from 1923 to the present, that libraries cannot deliver to their readers online. The Internet Archive is assembling a network of libraries to provide at-scale circulation of 4 million books from this period. This will enable libraries that own a physical book to provide their patrons with temporary access to that book in digital

form, under the same restrictions libraries currently impose—one eBook to one reader at a time.

The founders of the American republic believed that a self-governing people have the right to unfettered access to information in order to fulfill their responsibility to be informed citizens. That is why libraries have long been pillars of democratic practice, supported by both public and private funding and undergirded by a copyright regime that enables libraries to lend books, moving images, and recorded sound while protecting the privacy of each reader and the rights of creators. This critical linchpin of democracy is imperiled by a copyright regime that has yet to catch up with the realities of digital access. The Internet Archive is offering a secure, scalable solution to this challenge while the sociopolitical system normalizes the access our democracy demands.

The Internet Archive is uniquely positioned to move this vital project forward. Libraries are committed to continue their core mission in the midst of powerful technological and format changes. Yet they cannot operate at the scale that is required for providing new service models without collaboration with the Internet Archive. The Archive's modeling and testing of new digital services is uniquely influential, as the adoption of their web crawling tools attests. Pioneered by the Internet Archive, these tools are now commonly used by research institutions and libraries to collect, preserve, and make accessible web-based content for the communities that they serve.

What is at risk if we do not act now is not just the content of these books. At this juncture in time, democratic practices are threatened by floods of unvetted, unverified media feeds about current and past events. We need more, not less access to information that has been vetted for quality, the very definition of what a published book is. Writers, editors, proofreaders, publishers, reviewers, and the librarians who make informed decisions about what to acquire are all vital links in the chain of quality intrinsic to published books.

The Internet Archive is keenly aware of what is at risk in this time of transition from hard copy to digital. To ensure access, they have dedicated decades of hard work, informed by innovative thinking and powered by a zeal to serve the public good that is widely recognized and honored in the United States and abroad. I respectfully urge the members of the board to fund this project. It will greatly enhance the ability of individuals to seek knowledge today and for generations to come.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Abby Smith Rumsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Abby Smith Rumsey





July 7, 2017

MacArthur Foundation Board Members  
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603

Re: Internet Archive's *OpenLibraries* Initiative

Dear MacArthur Foundation Board Members,

I am writing to express the Electronic Frontier Foundation's strong support for the Internet Archive's proposal to the MacArthur Foundation's *100&Change* competition. EFF supports this proposal because we know that the Internet Archive's work will help fulfill the promise of the Internet—truly universal access to knowledge. We are particularly excited by the Archive's vision to maximize access to knowledge for traditionally disadvantaged communities, including those constricted by distance, time, income and disabilities. With support from the MacArthur Foundation, the Archive can make that dream a reality.

I've known and worked with Brewster Kahle for more than ten years, as an EFF client, as a fellow advocate on a range of issues and as a member of EFF's board of directors. The Archive's mission aligns easily with EFF's: we share a fundamental commitment to ensuring that new technologies serve, rather than inhibit, the public interest. In line with that goal, we have worked closely with the Internet Archive to find ways to expand their collections and to defend a library's right to protect the privacy of its readers, including from improper government demands for information. We know that libraries have a special dedication not just to access, but also to preservation. We also know that, unlike some commercial entities, libraries like the Archive protect reader privacy by never unnecessarily harvesting, or selling, the personal information of patrons. The Archive's leadership in upholding that tradition in the 21<sup>st</sup> century has been vital to protecting open knowledge and Internet freedom.

I also know that Brewster leads a dedicated, hard-working team that has accomplished extraordinary things on a shoestring budget. Many organizations set ambitious goals. The Archive fulfills them. As a result, the Archive has become an invaluable resource for people all over the world.

EFF and the Archive have worked together many times on briefs and public advocacy concerning the careful balance between the incentives copyright law offers to authors and publishers with the broad public interest goals of digital libraries. We believe the Internet Archive's plan to expand the collection of digital books and make them available to the print disabled, journalists, scholars and the public will serve the purposes of copyright by fostering new creativity and innovation, encouraging new transformative uses, and promoting access to

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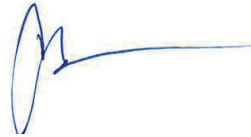
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works that are now hidden away in the dusty archives of small and large libraries around the United States.

We join the Internet Archive in believing that access to knowledge is an inalienable right—and a pillar of our democratic system. When some of our citizens face towering barriers to knowledge, democracy suffers. Now more than ever we need to put the best information in front of our citizens, while at the same time protecting their right to access that information without sacrificing their privacy. We know the Archive is committed to doing both.

We wholeheartedly support the Internet Archive's proposal and look forward to working with them to make this program a success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Corynne McSherry', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Corynne McSherry  
Legal Director  
Electronic Frontier Foundation



1875 Explorer Street, 10th Floor  
Reston, VA 20190

The President and the Board of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation  
140 S. Dearborn Street  
Chicago, IL 60603-5285

Dear Board Members,

I am writing in support of the proposal from the Internet Archive to expand its efforts to preserve modern digital artifacts (among other media) in response to the call for proposal from the MacArthur Foundation. I have known and worked with the Internet Archive's founder, Brewster Kahle, for many years and have found his leadership and his team's dedication to be refreshing and vital to the effort to preserve our digital heritage. I am sure that the Archive team has documented its work to date so I will not reiterate that here.

They have been extraordinarily clever in their implementation of a Web archive and recently added a browser plug-in so that a "404 page not found" message from the browser automatically invokes a search of the Internet Archive in case that page sought was captured in their "crawl" of the WWW. The WWW can barely contain itself let alone archive itself, so efforts to explicitly capture our increasingly digital history require extraordinary measures and it is gratifying to know that the MacArthur Foundation recognizes that need.

Brewster and his team understand big visions - something the MacArthur Foundation has demonstrated a remarkable ability to discover and support. The 100&Change effort is a good example of that.

I am strongly persuaded that the selection of the Internet Archive for digital preservation will be an investment well made and endorse without reservation their proposal.

Sincerely,

Vint Cerf  
VP and Chief Internet Evangelist  
Google